

CURRENT AFFAIRS

2025

JANUARY 1

Nat Sciver-Brunt Sets Record for Fastest Test Century



- **Nat Sciver-Brunt** of England set the record for the fastest century in women's Test cricket.
- She scored her century off 96 balls against **South Africa**
- First and only woman cricketer to score a Test century in less than 100 balls
- She broke the previous record of 106 balls set by **Chamani Seneviratna** of Sri Lanka in 1998.
- The fastest recorded century in Test cricket in terms of balls faced is held by **Brendon McCullum**, who scored 100 runs from 54 balls against Australia in 2016

34th Vyas Samman 2024



- Hindi writer **Suryabala** won the 34th Vyas Samman 2024 for her novel ***Kaun Des Ko Vasi: Venu Ki Diary***, published in 2018.
- The novel explores cultural conflicts and identity struggles of Indian youth in America
- Instituted in **1991** by the KK Birla Foundation, the Vyas Samman honors outstanding **Hindi literary** works from the past decade, offering a cash prize of **₹4 lakh**
 - Eligibility for this award is that the literary work must be in **Hindi** language and must be published in the past 10 years.

- 1991: Ram Vilas Sharma
- 2023: Pushpa Bharati for *Yaadein, Yaadein!...Aur Yaadein*
- 2022: Gyan Chaturvedi for *Pagalkhana*
- 2021: Asghar Wajahat for *Mahabali*

Ashwin announces retirement from international cricket



- **Ravichandran Ashwin** is an Indian former international cricketer.
- He is a **right-arm off spin bowler** and a lower order batter.
- He was part of the Indian team that won the **2011 Cricket World Cup** and the **2013 Champions Trophy**.
- He plays for **Chennai Super Kings** in the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- Ashwin has taken more than **500 wickets in Tests** and was the fastest bowler to reach **300 test wickets** in terms of number of innings.
- He has won eleven Man of the Series awards in Tests, which is the most for any cricketer, along with **Muttiah Muralitharan**

- He scored more than **500 runs and took more than 50 wickets in 2016**, becoming the second Indian after **Kapil Dev** to do so
- **Second highest ever rating points by an Indian bowler ever in Tests** in the ICC rankings (904)- Jasprit Bumrah(907)
- In June 2024, Ashwin released his memoir titled ***I have the streets: A kutti cricket story***, which he had co-authored with sports writer **Sidharth Monga**
- In **2015**, he was awarded the **Arjuna award** by the Government of India
- In **January 2025**, Ashwin was honored with the **Padma Shri**

Best FIFA Football Awards 2024



- Real Madrid's **Vinicius Jr.** (Brazil) was named **the FIFA 'The Best' man of the year 2024**
- **Aitana Bonmati** won the award in the women's section in 2024 awards.
- **Spanish** midfielder Bonmatti won the award after winning the Ballon d'Or two years in a row.

Best Men's Goalkeeper: **Emiliano Martinez** of Aston Villa

Best Women's Goalkeeper: **Alyssa Naeher** of Chicago Red Stars

Best Men's Coach: **Carlo Ancelotti**

Best Women's Coach: **Emma Hayes**

Tulsi Gowda, the 'Encyclopedia of Forests,' Passes Away



- **Tulsi Gowda** was an Indian environmentalist from Honnali village Mysore, Karnataka.
- She planted more than 30,000 saplings and looked after the nurseries of the Forest Department.
- In **2021**, the Government of India awarded her the **Padma Shri**
- Revered as the “**Tree Goddess**” and “**Encyclopedia of Forest**” by the Halakki tribal community.
 - She is known as the "Encyclopedia of the Forest" for her ability to recognise the mother tree of any species of tree
- **Vrikshamitra Awards (1986)**
- **Rajyotsava Award (1999)**

India Emerges as 3rd Largest Exporter in Smartphone Market



- **India** has made strides in the global smartphone market and has risen from 23rd to **3rd place** in smartphone exports since 2019.
- India's smartphone exports increased by **92% in November 2024** compared to the same month last year.
- Exports in November 2024 reached **₹20,395 crore**, a sharp rise from ₹10,634 crore in November 2023.
- **China** is the world's largest exporter of smartphones, while **Vietnam**, the second largest exporter.

India Conducts First-ever Ganges River Dolphin Tagging in Assam



- India marks a historic achievement in wildlife conservation as the first-ever **Ganges River Dolphin** (*Platanista gangetica*) has been tagged in Assam
- Objective: **It will help in understanding their migratory patterns, range, distribution, and habitat utilization, particularly in fragmented river systems.**
- Ganga River Dolphin Known as the “**Tiger of the Ganges**,” discovered in **1801**.
- Declared National Aquatic Animal in **2009** and **State Aquatic Animal of Assam.**

- This initiative, conducted under **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**
 - It was implemented by the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** in collaboration with the **Assam Forest Department** and **Aaranyak**, with funding from the **National CAMPA Authority**.
- This is the **first tagging, not only in India, but also for the species in globally**, and this milestone is a significant advancement of Project Dolphin, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Bhutan Confers Royal Honour on Indian Educationist Arun Kapur



- Indian educationist **Arun Kapur** has been conferred the rare '**Dasho**' title and **Red Scarf** by Bhutan's King **Jigme Khesar Namgyel** at the 117th National Day celebrations.
- This honor, typically given to senior Bhutanese officials for significant contributions to education in India, Bhutan.
- Kapur was the head of **Vasant Valley School in Delhi** for 29 years, till April 2020.
- Bhutan Capital: **Thimphu**
- Currencies: **Bhutanese Ngultrum, Indian Rupee**
- Official language: **Dzongkha**

Madhya Pradesh Welcomes 10th International Forest Fair



- The 10th International Forest Fair, held in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**, commenced on December 17, 2024, and will run until December 23
- This fair focuses on promoting sustainable forest practices, empowering local communities, and fostering collaboration among various stakeholders in the forestry sector.
- This year's theme is ***Women Empowerment through Minor Forest Produce.***
- **Key Attendees:** Governor **Mangubhai Patel**, Chief Minister **Dr. Mohan Yadav**, International participants from **Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Australia**

Rama Mohan Rao Amara Appointed as SBI's New Managing Director



- The Indian government has appointed **Rama Mohan Rao Amara** as the new Managing Director (MD) of State Bank of India (SBI) for a period of three years.
- His appointment was approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** and follows a recommendation by the **Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)**.
- One of the MD positions in SBI fell vacant after **CS Setty** assumed charge as chairman in August 2024
- Founded: **1 July 1955**
- Headquarters: **Mumbai**



Shri Challa Sreenivasulu Setty
Chairman



Shri Ashwini
Kumar Tewari
Managing
Director



Shri Vinay M
Tonse
Managing
Director

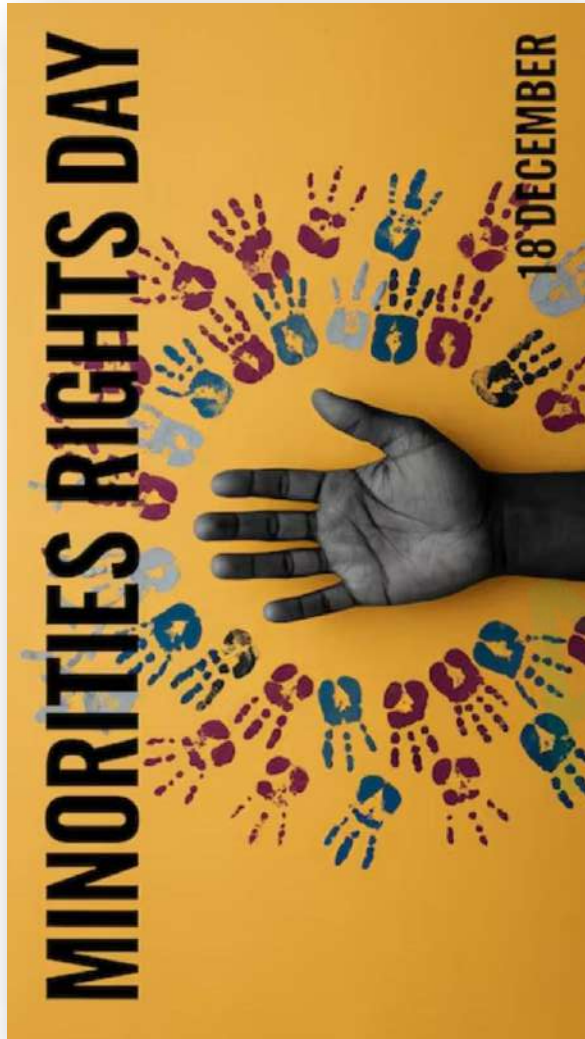


Shri Rana
Ashutosh Kumar
Singh
Managing
Director



Shri Rama
Mohan Rao
Amara
Managing
Director

Minorities Rights Day Celebrated



- Minorities Rights Day is observed annually on **December 18** to commemorate the adoption of the **United Nations' 1992 Statement on the Rights of Individuals belonging to Religious or Linguistic National or Ethnic Minorities**.
- Minorities Rights Day upholds the right to freedom and equal opportunities for the minorities in India and creates awareness about their rights.
- India officially began recognizing this day in **2013**.
- The theme for Minorities Rights Day 2024 is "**Promoting Diversity and Protecting Rights**".
- Union Minister of Minority Affairs: **Kiren Rijiju**
- Chairman, National Commission for Minorities: **Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura**

38th National Games in Uttarakhand



- **Uttarakhand** is preparing to host the 38th National Games, set to begin on 28th January, 2025.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the 38th National Games in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, highlighting the significance of the event.
- The 38th National Games will be the largest sporting event in Uttarakhand's history, with athletes from across India competing in **35 sports**.
- The trophies and medals for the games were made from **e-waste**.
- The mascot is **Mauli**, inspired by the **Himalayan Monal**, the state bird of Uttarakhand.
- The official torch of the 38th National Games, named **Tejaswini**

- The official logo of the 38th National Games is a harmonious blend of Uttarakhand's natural beauty and cultural heritage:
 - **The Himalayan Peaks**
 - **The Himalayan Monal**
 - **The Ganga River**



India and France Collaborate to Establish World's Largest Museum



- India and France are collaborating to build the **Yuga Yugeen Bharat National Museum** in New Delhi, which will be the **world's largest museum**.
- The museum will be located on Raisina Hill, across from the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The **Ministry of Culture**, in partnership with **France Museums Développement (FMD)**, has launched this ambitious project
- Expected to surpass the **Louvre in Paris** as the world's largest museum.
- Part of the larger **Central Vista Redevelopment Project** in New Delhi.

Masali: India's First Border Solar Village



- **Masali**, a village in the Banaskantha district of Gujarat, India, is considered the country's **first "border solar village"** as it is fully powered by solar energy
- All houses in Masali have rooftop solar panels installed under the **PM Surya Ghar Yojana**, making it a self-sufficient solar community
- The Government of India launched the **PM Surya Ghar**: Free Electricity Scheme on **February 29, 2024** to increase the share of solar rooftop capacity and empower residential households to generate their own electricity
- The outlay of the scheme is **Rs 75,021 crore**.
- It is to be implemented by **FY 2026-27**.

Centre, ADB Sign \$42 Million Loan for Coastal Protection in Maharashtra



- Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) sign **\$42 million loan** to strengthen **coastal protection** to help boost community resilience in Maharashtra
- The project also encourages increased **participation of women, youth, and vulnerable groups** in coastal zone management to enhance their ability to prepare for and respond effectively to disasters
- The signatories to the loan agreement for the **Maharashtra Sustainable Climate-Resilient Coastal Protection and Management Project** were **Ms. Juhi Mukherjee**, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, for the Government of India, and **Ms. Mio Oka**, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission, for ADB.

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Salman Khan Named Brand Ambassador for Kho Kho World Cup



- Bollywood actor **Salman Khan** was named the brand ambassador for the first-ever Kho-Kho World Cup.
- The **Kho-Kho Federation of India (KKFI)** announced Khan as the brand ambassador for the tournament
- The first Kho-Kho World Cup took place in New Delhi from **January 13–19, 2025.**
- KKFI President: **Sudhanshu Mittal**
- **India won both the Men's and Women's titles** in the inaugural edition, while staying unbeaten throughout the tournament.

The 100th edition of the Tansen Sangeet Samaroh



- The 100th Tansen Sangeet Samaroh was held in **Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh** from **December 15–19, 2024**.
- The Tansen ceremony was started in the year **1924**
- The festival celebrated the legacy of the legendary Hindustani classical musician **Tansen**
- The event took place at the **Tansen Tomb in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh**, and was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, **Mohan Yadav**.
- **Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri** was awarded the **Rashtriya Tansen Samman 2023**
- The **Sanand Nyas Sanstha, Indore** was awarded the **Raja Mansingh Tomar Samman 2023**



**NATIONAL RAJA MANSINGH
TOMAR AWARD**

SANAND NYAS, INDORE

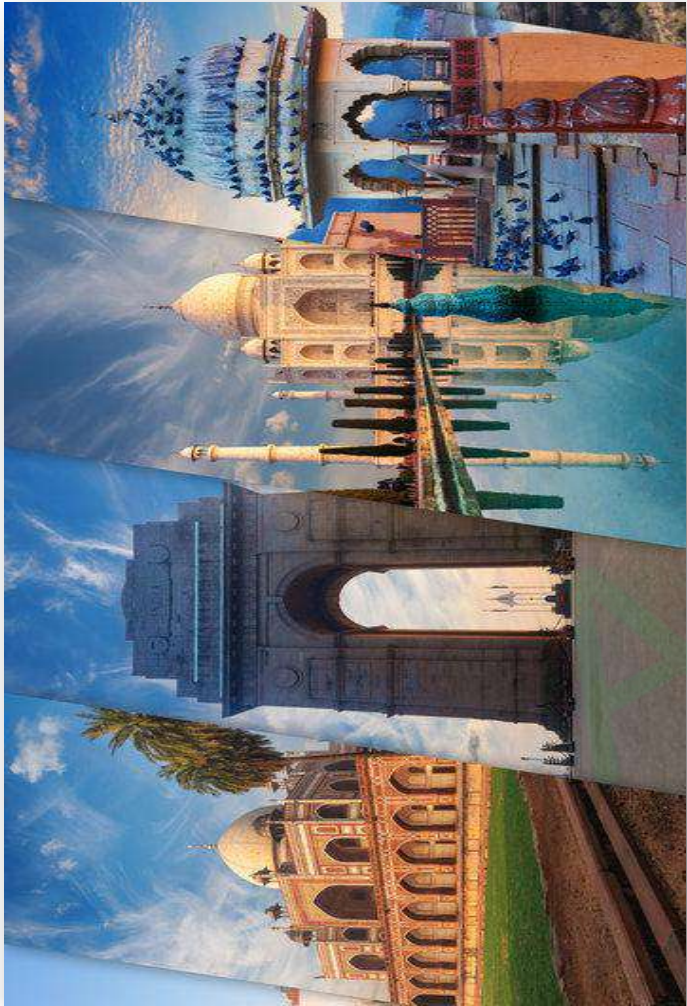


NATIONAL TANSEN AWARD

PANDIT SWAPAN CHAUDHURI

- In 2023, **Gwalior** was officially designated as a **UNESCO Creative City of Music**, a recognition of its long-standing association with classical music.
- The city, home to landmarks such as the **Gwalior Fort and Sas Bahu Temples**, continues to inspire musicians, scholars, and artists from around the world.
- **Tansen** was a vocalist, instrumentalist and music composer credited as the founder of the Hindustani classical music.
 - He was one of the **Navratnas (Nine gems) in Emperor Akbar's court.**

India Ranks 39th in Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024



- India was ranked **39th** in the 2024 Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI).
- This was announced by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** on December 20, 2024
- India's rank improved from **54th** in **2021**.
- India is the **top-ranked country in South Asia**
- The Ministry of Tourism under the schemes of '**Swadesh Darshan**', '**National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)**' and '**Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development**' provides financial assistance to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations/Central Agencies for the development of tourism related infrastructure and facilities at various tourism destinations in the country.

India Men's Hockey Team: 5th in Latest FIH Rankings for 2025

- The Indian men's hockey team has achieved **5th place** in the latest FIH world rankings
- It's following their historic performance at the **2024 Paris Olympics**, where they secured **back-to-back medals for the first time since 1972**.
- The **Netherlands** retained the top spot, followed by Belgium in the 2nd place, and Australia in the 3rd position.
- India's men's team has **never been world No.1** because the official hockey rankings were only introduced in 2003.



- Indian men reached their highest ranking – **third** – **in 2021** after winning the bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics.
- It was their first Olympic medal in 41 years.
- In **1928**, the team won its first Olympic gold medal and until **1956**, the Indian men's team remained unbeaten in the Olympics, winning six gold medals in a row
- The number of Gold Medals won by Indian Hockey in the Olympics is **eight**.
 - India won **gold medals** in hockey in the following years: **1928, 1932, 1936, 1948, 1952, 1956, 1964, and 1980**.
- The number of **Silver Medals** won by Indian Hockey in the Olympics is **one** in **1960**.
- The number of **Bronze Medals** won by Indian Hockey in the Olympics is **Four**. (**1968, 1972 and 2020, 2024**).

Former Haryana CM Om Prakash Chautala Passes Away



- **Om Prakash Chautala** was an Indian politician who served as the **Chief Minister of Haryana from 1999 to 2005**
- A member of the **Indian National Lok Dal (INLD)**, he became the chief minister of Haryana for five terms.
- He holds the record for being the **oldest prisoner of the Tihar Jail**, at the age of 89.
- He is also a former Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha from the **Hisar constituency**

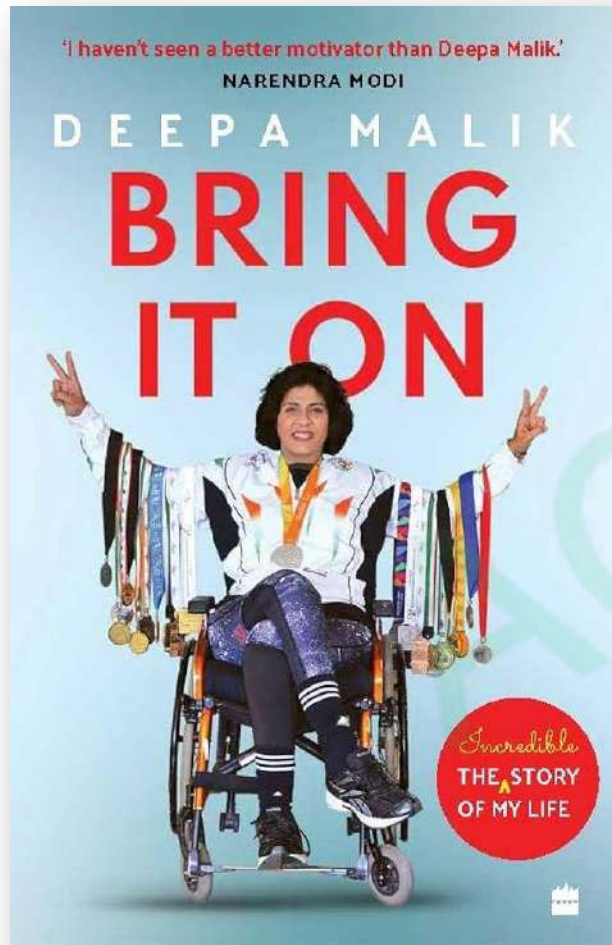
24th BIMSTEC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)



- India participated in the **24th BIMSTEC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)**, hosted virtually by **Thailand** on December 20, 2024.
- **Jaideep Mazumdar**, Secretary (East) from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), represented India during this important session.
- The meeting reviewed the progress made by BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)
- It was chaired by **Paisan Rupa-nich-kij**, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was established on **June 6, 1997**, with the signing of the **Bangkok Declaration**.
- Originally named BIST-EC (**Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand** Economic Cooperation), the organization was later renamed BIMSTEC.
- Members : It initially included **Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka**, and **Thailand**, and later expanded to include **Myanmar** in December 1997, and **Bhutan** and **Nepal** in 2004.
- Chairmanship: **Thailand** (since March 2022)[4]
- Secretary General: **Indra Mani Pandey, India** (since 2023)

A Book Titled 'BRING IT ON: The Incredible Story of My Life' By Dr. Deepa Malik



- HarperCollins India has announced the upcoming publication of '**BRING IT ON: The Incredible Story of My Life**', a memoir by India's most celebrated para-athlete, **Dr. Deepa Malik**.
- She made history as India's **first-ever female Paralympic medalist**, winning a silver medal in shot put at the 2016 Rio Paralympics.
- **Arjuna Award** in 2012
- **Padma Shri Award** in 2017
- **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award** in 2019

- She won the first medal by an Indian woman winning a bronze at **Para-Asian Games at China in December 2010.**
- She is the only Indian woman to win medals in **three consecutive Asian Para Games in 2010, 2014 and 2018**
- She served as the **first female president of the Paralympic Committee of India.**
- She is currently the **South Asian region representative on the executive board of the Asian Paralympic Committee**, making her the first Indian woman and former para-athlete to hold this prestigious position.

Richa Ghosh Smashes Joint-Fastest Fifty In Women's T20Is



- **Richa Ghosh** hit a joint-record-breaking fifty in women's T20Is during the third and final T20I against the West Indies (From **18 balls**).
- Ghosh scored 54 runs off 21 balls.
- She broke **Smriti Mandhana's record** (24 balls) to become the fastest half-centurion in W-T20I by an Indian.
- She equaled the record that is jointly held by New Zealand's **Sophie Devine** and Australia's **Phoebe Litchfield**.
- Nepal's **Dipendra Singh Airee** holds the record for the fastest fifty in T20 cricket, **nine-ball half-century** scored vs Mongolia at the Asian Games 2023.
- **Yuvraj Singh (12 balls)** - 2007

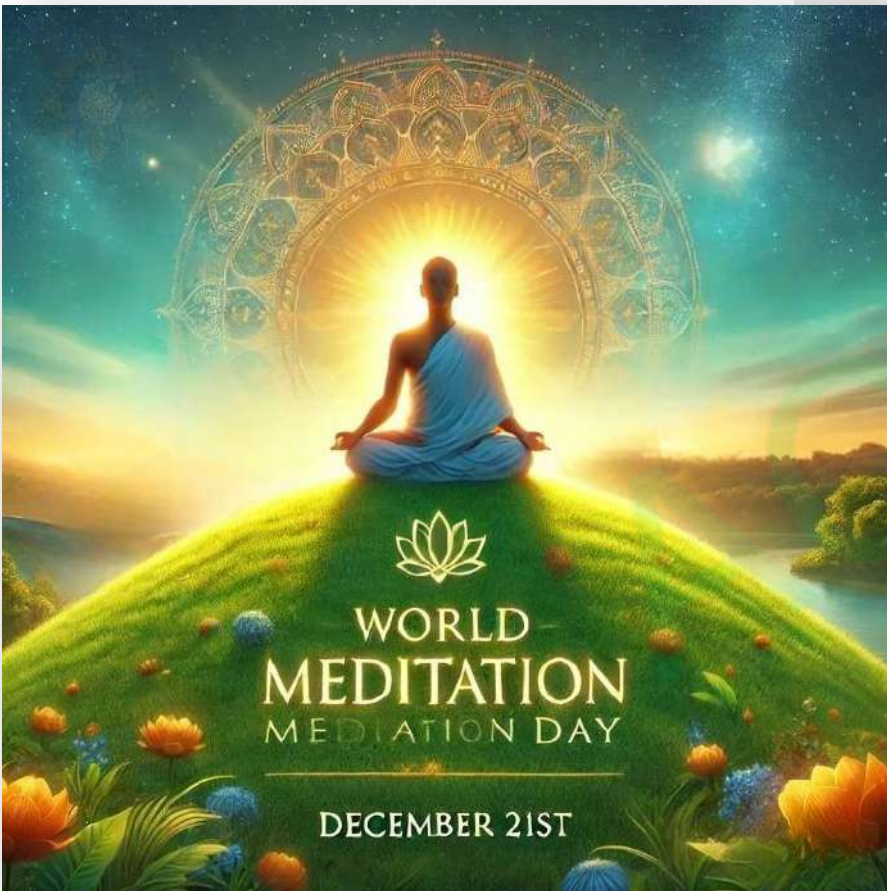
Delhi to Host 2025 Para Athletics World Championships



- **India** will host the 12th World Para Athletics Championships for the first time
- The world's largest single Para sport event will take place **from 26 September to 5 October 2025** at **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium**, which will also host a **World Para Athletics Grand Prix** for the first time next March
- The 2025 event is the 12th edition of the championships and the **fourth time it is hosted in Asia**, following **Doha 2015, Dubai 2019 and Kobe 2024**
- India's recent performance in Para athletics, notably winning 17 medals at the 2023 World Championships in **Kobe, Japan**

First-Ever World Meditation Day: 21st December 2024

- On **21st December 2024**, the world celebrated the first-ever World Meditation Day
- This annual celebration has been established following a resolution passed by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** on 29th November 2024.
- The event's theme, "***Meditation for Global Peace and Harmony***,"
- To celebrate this day, the **Permanent Mission of India** hosted a special event at the United Nations headquarters in New York.
 - The event featured a live, global meditation session led by **Sri Sri Ravi Shankar**, the renowned Indian spiritual leader and founder of the Art of Living Foundation, who served as the chief guest.



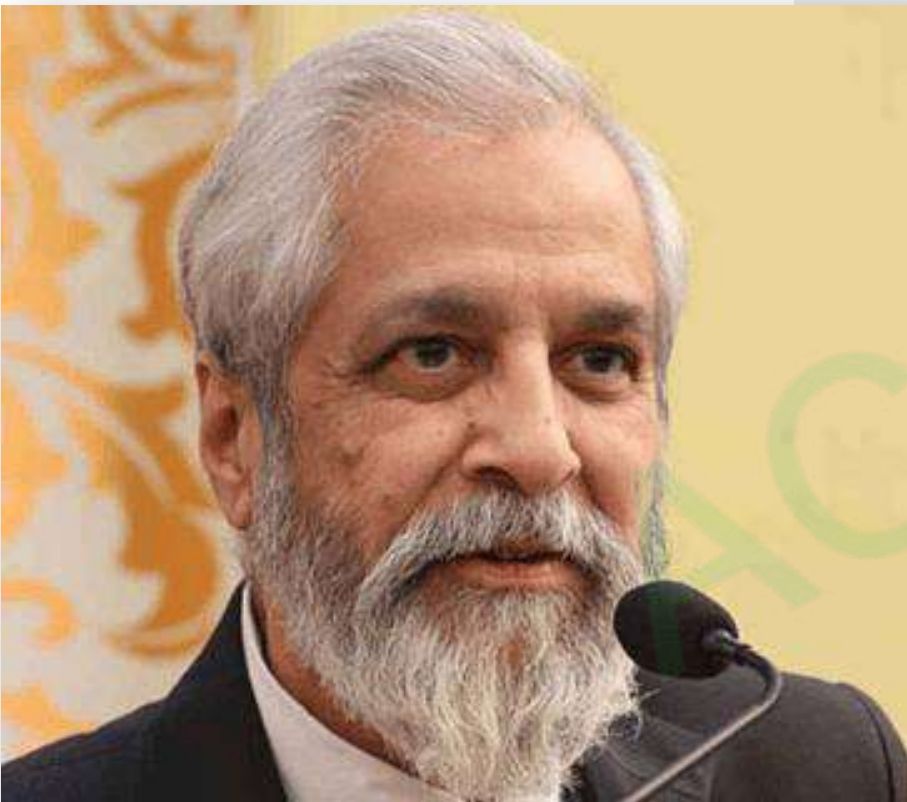
India's First Bio-Bitumen Stretch Inaugurated by Nitin Gadkari



- India has recently inaugurated its first bio-bitumen-based National Highway stretch on NH-44 in **Mansar, Nagpur, Maharashtra**
- It utilizes **lignin-based bio-bitumen technology**, developed through collaborative efforts involving **Praj Industries, CSIR-CRRI, NHAI, and Oriental.**
- This stretch is a milestone in India's road development sector, being the **first to employ lignin-based bio-bitumen technology**
- **Bitumen** is a **thick, black, sticky petroleum-based substance** that is used to pave roads and construct other infrastructure.
- It's also known as **asphalt** in the United States

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways: **Nitin Gadkari**
- The use of bio-bitumen contributes to **global sustainability goals**.
 - It is estimated to **cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 70%** compared to fossil-based alternatives.
- **Lignin** is abundant in agricultural waste and is a renewable resource.
 - By using lignin, this project addresses the shortage of traditional bitumen, which currently sees **50% of its supply imported into India**.
 - The shift to bio-bitumen reduces dependency on imports and promotes local production.

Justice Madan Lokur: Chairperson of UN Internal Justice Council



- Former Supreme Court Judge **Madan Lokur** Appointed As **United Nations Internal Justice Council Chairperson**
- The Secretary-General of the United Nations, **Antonio Guterres** has appointed former Supreme Court Judge Madan B Lokur as the Chairperson of the UN Internal Justice Council **till November 12, 2028**
- He was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court on June 4, 2012
- In 2019, Justice Lokur was appointed to the **Supreme Court of Fiji** as a judge of its non-resident panel.
- He was the **first Indian judge to be appointed as a judge in the Supreme Court of another country.**

India-Kuwait Elevate Ties to Strategic Partnership



- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's official visit to Kuwait on December 21-22, 2024, marked a significant milestone in **India-Kuwait relations**, with the two nations elevating their bilateral ties to a Strategic Partnership
- Modi's two-day visit was the first by an Indian Prime Minister since **Indira Gandhi's visit in 1981**.
- Kuwait honoured Modi with its highest civilian award, '**The Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer**,' acknowledging his contribution to strengthening India-Kuwait ties.

- **A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** in the field of **defense** was signed, aiming to strengthen ties through joint military exercises, training, coastal defense, and maritime safety.
- Both the nations signed the Executive Program on Cooperation in the Field of **Sports** for 2025-2028.
- Both the nations signed the **Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP)** for the years 2025-29.

National Farmers Day 2024



- Farmers' Day also known to be **Kisan Diwas**, is observed on **23 December** every year.
- This day marks the birth anniversary of **Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh**, India's **fifth Prime Minister**, renowned for his deep understanding of rural issues and unwavering advocacy for farmers' welfare.
- It was established in **2001**
- India's agricultural sector employs nearly half of the population and contributes **17.7% to the GVA at current prices in FY 2023-24**
- With approximately **54.8% of the country's 328.7 million hectares** **classified as agricultural land**

- Recognising the vital role of farmers, the Government of India has introduced a suite of initiatives designed to **support their socio-economic upliftment** and ensure sustainable agricultural growth.
- These programmes, including:
 - **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)**
 - **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**
 - **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana (PM-KMY)**, are aimed at providing financial security, risk mitigation, and long-term social security for farmers.

Key Figures from Major Agricultural Schemes in India



PM-KISAN	Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY):	Kisan Credit Card (KCC)	Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)
Disbursed ₹ 3.46 Lakh Crore so far, benefitting over 11 Crore farmers	Insured 68.85 Crore farmer applications, disbursed ₹ 1.65 Lakh Crore in claims since inception.	7.75 Crore operative KCC accounts as of March 31, 2024.	Sanctioned ₹ 51,448 Crore for 84,333 projects as of November 24, 2024.

Third Fastest List-A Century Anmolpreet's Record Breaking Knock



- **Anmolpreet Singh**, Punjab's top-order batter, made history by scoring the **third-fastest List A century in just 35 balls** during a Vijay Hazare Trophy match against Arunachal Pradesh in Ahmedabad.
- This remarkable achievement places him behind only **Jake Fraser-McGurk and AB de Villiers**
 - Jake Fraser-McGurk (29 balls) and AB de Villiers (31) sit above him.

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India Clinches Women's U19 T20 Asia Cup title



- The Indian women's cricket team won the **ACC U-19 Women's Asia Cup 2024** and became the **inaugural champions** after beating Bangladesh Women by 41 runs in the final
- The four Asian full members(**India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh**) along with the host **Malaysia and Nepal**, who qualified as the winner of the 2025 U-19 Women's Asia Qualifier, took part in the tournament
- The ACC Under-19 Women's T20 Asia Cup 2024, which was held in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**
- Player of the series: India's **Gongadi Trisha**

India to host ISSF Junior World Cup 2025

- **New Delhi** to host ISSF Junior World Cup 2025.
- This will be the **11th edition** of the junior shooting World Cup and the first one in India.
- It will be held from **September 24 to October 2**.
- Overall, the 2025 ISSF Junior World Cup will be the **ninth top-level shooting championship** to be held in India over the past decade.
- The ISSF Junior World Cup will see competitions held across all three shooting disciplines - **rifle, pistol and shotgun**.
- Both Olympic and non-Olympic events are part of Junior World Cups.



Republic Day 2025: 15 States, 11 Ministries to Present Tableaux



- The Ministry of Defence has chosen "**Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas**" (Golden India: Heritage and Development) as the theme for the Republic Day 2025 tableaux
- This year's tableaux will showcase the dynamic relationship between **India's rich heritage and its ongoing development.**
- The display will take place on **Kartavya Path** and feature creative exhibits from various states, Union Territories, and central ministries
- All the states/UTs, irrespective of their selection for Kartavya Path, are invited to display their tableaux during **Bharat Parv in Red Fort (26th-31st January 2025).**

- **Kerala excluded** from Republic Day Parade 2025 tableaux; 15 states, 11 ministries selected.
 - Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Dadar Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
- Kerala will not feature in the Republic Day Parade 2025 at **Kartavya Path in New Delhi**.
- It may be noted that the state's proposal did not make it to the final list in the years **2019, 2020, 2022, and 2024**.
- Kerala presented the tableau of "**Naree Shakti and Folk Traditions of Women Empowerment**" at the Republic Day Parade 2023.
- It included Kalaripayattu a martial art with a history spanning over 2,000 years, as well as percussion and tribal traditions, highlighting Kerala's rich cultural heritage

Govt Launches 'Udaan Yatri Cafe' Initiative



- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has launched the “**Udaan Yatri Cafe**” at Kolkata airport, which aims to provide affordable food and beverages to air travellers.
- The first outlet is located at **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata**.
- The cafe will serve essential items such as water, tea, coffee, and snacks.
- If successful, the initiative will expand to other airports across India.
- The cafe addresses the need for affordable food options at airports, and seeks to alleviate the financial burden on travellers.

Ex-IMF chief Rato gets four-year jail term in Spain for tax crimes



- Former IMF chief and Spanish economy minister **Rodrigo Rato** will be handed a jail term of **more than four years for tax crimes, money laundering and corruption.**
- Rato served as **IMF Chairman from 2004 to 2007** and as **Spain's Deputy Prime Minister** under the People Party (PP) government
- Previously served two years in prison (2017-2019) for embezzlement, related to the **misuse of Bankia credit cards.**

Madhya Pradesh Named “Go-To Global Destination for 2025” by WSJ



- The **Wall Street Journal (WSJ)** named **Madhya Pradesh** as one of the "**Go-To Global Destinations for 2025**".
- This recognition highlights the state's rich heritage, wildlife, and natural beauty.
- The inclusion in the Wall Street Journal's list highlights Madhya Pradesh's appeal as a world-class destination, attracting global travelers seeking history, adventure, and stunning landscapes.

- There are **43 World Heritage Sites in India**.
 - Out of these, 35 are cultural, seven are natural, and one, Khangchendzonga National Park, is of mixed type, listed for both cultural and natural properties.
 - India has the sixth-most sites worldwide.
 - The first sites to be listed were the Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Agra Fort, and Taj Mahal, all of which were inscribed in the 1983 session of the World Heritage Committee.
- Madhya Pradesh has a total of 14 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, with **3 permanent sites** and **11 tentative sites**.
- Three sites in Madhya Pradesh have been declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO:
 - **The Khajuraho Group of Monuments (1986)**
 - **Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi (1989)**
 - **The Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka (2003)**

V. Ramasubramanian Appointed NHRC Chairperson



- Former Supreme Court judge **Justice V. Ramasubramanian** has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission
- In 2019, he was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court.
- Appointed by President **Droupadi Murmu**
- The post had been vacant since Justice (Retd.) **Arun Kumar Mishra** completed his tenure on 1st June 2024.
- Interim leadership was provided by NHRC member **Vijaya Bharathi Sayani** until Ramasubramanian's appointment.

- Alongside Ramasubramanian, **Priyank Kanoongo**, former Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), and **Dr. Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi (Retd.)** have been appointed as NHRC members.
- The NHRC of India is an autonomous statutory body established to promote and protect human rights.
 - It was constituted on **12th October 1993** under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993, which was later amended in 2006 and 2019.
- It is a **multi-member body**, consisting of a **Chairman and five full-time members**.
 - The chairperson should be a **retired Chief Justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court**.
 - The members should include a **serving or retired judge of the Supreme Court, a serving or retired Chief Justice of a High Court and three persons (at least one of whom should be a woman) having knowledge or practical experience in relation to human rights**.
 - Apart from these, **seven ex-officio members** are also included in it.

3 Indians Shine On Forbes' 2024 World's Most Powerful Women

List



- Forbes has released its **21st annual list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women**, highlighting influential leaders in various sectors.
- This year, three Indian women—**Nirmala Sitharaman, Roshni Nadar Malhotra, and Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**—earned recognition for their significant contributions to business

1. **Ursula von der Leyen** – President of the European Commission
2. **Christine Lagarde** – President of the European Central Bank
3. **Giorgia Meloni** – Prime Minister of Italy
4. **Claudia Sheinbaum** – President of Mexico
5. **Mary Barra** – CEO of General Motors

- The number **28** on the list is Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, **Nirmala Sitharaman**
- Ranked **81st** on the list, **Roshni Nadar Malhotra** is the Chairperson of HCL Technologies, one of India's leading IT services firms, and CEO of HCL Corporation
- Ranked **82nd** in Forbes' Power Women list and 91st among India's richest individuals in 2024, **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** has earned her place as a trailblazer in biotechnology.
 - She is the founder and chairperson of Biocon, a biopharmaceutical company she established in 1978



India Ranks 49th in Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2024

- According to the latest **Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2024**, India has secured the **49th position**, marking a significant improvement from its previous ranking of **60th in 2023**, highlighting the country's progress in digital infrastructure and technological advancements.
- India's score in the **NRI 2024 is 53.63, compared to 49.93 in 2023**
- The Report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 133 economies based on their performances in four different pillars: **Technology, People, Governance, and Impact**, covering a total of 54 variables.
- The report has been published by the **Portulans Institute**, an independent non-profit research and educational institute based in Washington DC.



Russian Tennis Star Daniil Savelev Banned For 2 Years Over Doping



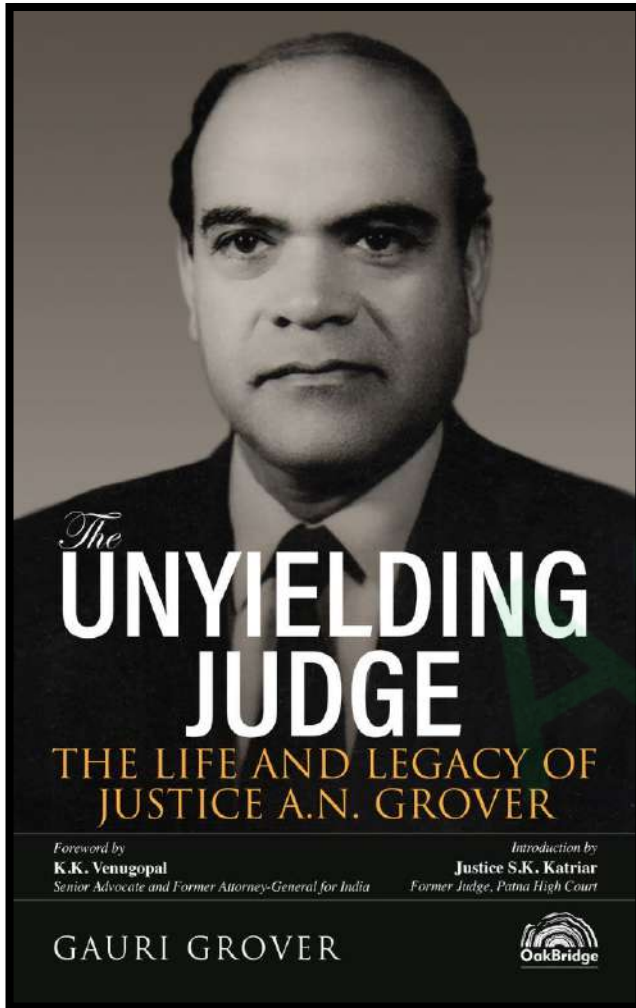
- Russian tennis player **Daniil Savelev** has banned two-year for doping by the International Tennis Integrity Agency
- The ITIA said that Savelev tested positive for the prohibited substance **meldonium** in July 2024.
- He has been provisionally suspended since August of this year. That means his suspension will end in **August 2026**.
- Savelev had reached a career-high world doubles ranking of **1,486 in August 2022**

Jaishankar Receives Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Award for Leadership



- External Affairs Minister **Subrahmanyam Jaishankar** was awarded the **Shri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati National Award of Excellence for Public Leadership** by the **South Indian Education Society (SIES)**
- South Indian Education Society (SIES) is one of the oldest educational societies in India.
- He serving as the **30th Minister of External Affairs of the Government of India** since 31 May 2019.
- He is the longest serving Minister of External Affairs **since Jawaharlal Nehru**, who held the position during his entire **17 years as Prime Minister**.
- **In January 2019**, Jaishankar was conferred with **Padma Shri**

“The Unyielding Judge: A Tribute to Justice A.N. Grover’s Legacy”



- "***The Unyielding Judge: A Tribute to Justice A.N. Grover's Legacy***," written by Gauri Grover
- The book was launched on December 21, 2024, with remarks from **Attorney General R Venkataramani**
- Justice A.N. Grover was part of the **13-judge bench** in the **1973 Kesavananda Bharti case**.
- The event paid tribute to Justice Grover, renowned for his role in the landmark 1973 Kesavananda Bharti case, which **upheld the basic structure doctrine of the Indian Constitution**.

Tonga Elects Aisake Valu Eke as New Prime Minister



- **Tonga's** parliament has elected **Aisake Valu Eke** as Prime Minister after **Siaosi Sovaleni** resigned amid tensions with **King Tupou VI**.
- Eke will lead until the 2025 elections, tackling issues like strained monarchy-government relations, economic recovery, and the aftermath of the 2022 volcanic eruption.
- Siaosi Sovaleni, Prime Minister since 2021, resigned hours before facing a no-confidence vote led by Eke.
- His tenure witnessed escalating tensions with Tonga's monarchy, particularly King Tupou VI, who retains considerable authority, including the power to dissolve parliament and veto legislation

Losar Festival celebrated in Ladakh



- **Ladakhi Losar**, marking the New Year in the Tibetan calendar, is a vibrant festival celebrated with great enthusiasm across **Ladakh**.
- Deeply rooted in the region's culture and heritage, Losar is more than a festive occasion
- It begins on the day of a new moon that marks the first day of the **first month on the Tibetan calendar**.
- Losar is celebrated for **15 days**, with the main celebrations on the first three days.
- Celebrated At:
 - **Tibet, Bhutan, Nepal, India**
 - **In India- Ladakh, Kinnaur, Spiti, Sikkim**

Arunish Chawla Appointed as New Revenue Secretary in Finance

Ministry



- The government appointed Arunish Chawla as the new Revenue Secretary.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet made this appointment
- He will succeed Sanjay Malhotra, who was appointed as RBI Governor.
- Previously, Dr. Chawla, a 1992-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the **Bihar cadre**, served as the **Secretary in the Department of Pharmaceuticals in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers since November 1, 2023.**

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President Appoints New Governors For Five States



- President Droupadi Murmu appointed two new governors and reassigned three others in **Kerala, Bihar, Odisha, Manipur, and Mizoram**, aiming to address political, administrative, and security challenges while strengthening regional leadership.
- The Governor of a State is **appointed by the President** for a term of **five years and holds office during his pleasure**.
- Only Indian citizens above **35 years of age** are eligible for appointment to this office.
- The governor is the **chief executive head of the state**.

- **Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati**, who currently holds the position of Governor of Mizoram, has been appointed as the **Governor of Odisha**.
- **General (Dr.) Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd.)** has been designated as the new **Governor of Mizoram**.
- **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar**, currently serving as the Governor of Bihar, will now assume the role of **Governor of Kerala**.
- **Arif Mohammed Khan**, the Governor of Kerala, has been assigned the position of **Governor of Bihar**.
- Former Union Home Secretary **Ajay Kumar Bhalla** has been appointed as the **Governor of Manipur**.
- The oath of office to the governor is administered by the chief justice of the concerned state high court and in his absence, the senior-most judge of that court available.

PM Modi Launches Ken-Betwa River-Linking Project



- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of the **interstate Ken-Betwa river linking project** to channel excess water from the Ken river in Madhya Pradesh into the Betwa, saying the long-awaited linkage will open new doors of prosperity in the **Bundelkhand region**.
- Nearly **4.4 million people across 12 districts of Madhya Pradesh and 2.1 million in 10 districts areas of Uttar Pradesh** will get drinking water under the project, which is estimated to cost ₹44,605 crore
- The project will also **generate hydropower and solar energy**, improving the region's overall development.

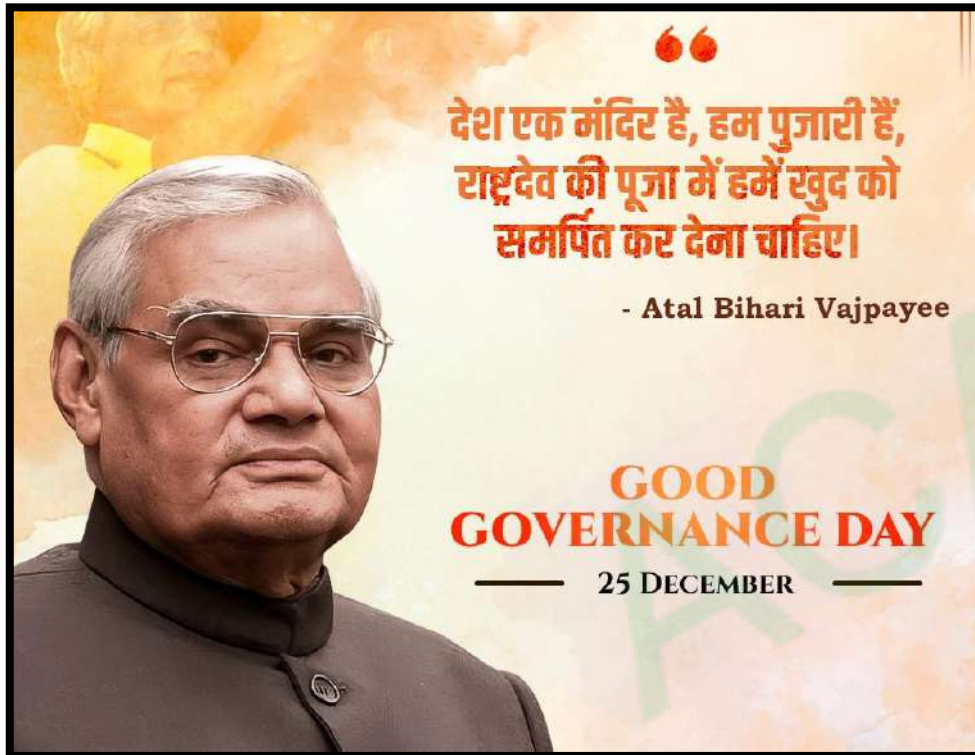
- The project was first envisaged following a feasibility study by the **National Water Development Authority (NWDA)** in 1995 at a cost of ₹1998.74 crore.
- Ten years later in 25 August, 2005, a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** was signed **between Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh** and the Union Government for preparation of a detailed feasibility report, which was completed in 2014.
- In 2023, approval was received from the environment ministry, clearing all decks for the project.
- **Ken River:** Rises near Ahirgawan in Madhya Pradesh, flows through Bundelkhand, joins the Yamuna near Chilla village in UP.
- **Betwa River:** Originates in the Vindhya Range (near Hoshangabad, MP), also flows through Bundelkhand, and meets the Yamuna at Hamirpur (UP).

Dr. Ambedkar Samman Yojana



- The **Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)** has introduced the **Dr. Ambedkar Samman Yojana**, aimed at supporting **Dalit students** pursuing higher education abroad, revealed by Arvind Kejriwal, the AAP leader, at the party headquarters.
- The announcement coincides with **Delhi Assembly elections**, indicating a strategic move to engage voters.
- Yojana intends to cover all educational expenses for Dalit students admitted to prestigious international universities.
- It covers tuition fees, travel costs, and living expenses for studying at top universities worldwide

Good Governance Day



- **Good Governance Day** is celebrated on **25th December** to raise awareness among citizens about government accountability and effective administration.
- The theme for 2024 is “**India’s Path to a Viksit Bharat: Empowering Citizens through Good Governance and Digitalisation.**”
- It was started in the year **2014** to honor the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The birth anniversary of **Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya** is also observed on 25th December.

US Declare Bald Eagle As National Bird After 250 Years



- The **bald eagle**, a long-standing symbol of strength and freedom, has been officially recognized as the national bird of the US after President Joe Biden signed a law
- **Since 1782**, the bald eagle has been part of the country's national emblem, featured on the Great Seal of the United States.
- Law Signed: **December 24, 2024 (Christmas Eve)**
- **National Emblem Act of 1940**, which prohibits hunting or selling bald eagles.
- Once near extinction, the population has significantly increased since **2009**.

China Approves \$137-Billion Mega Dam on Brahmaputra Near Indian Border



- China has approved the construction of the **world's largest dam**, stated to be the planet's biggest infra project **costing \$137 billion**, on the **Brahmaputra River** in Tibet close to the Indian border, raising concerns in India and Bangladesh
- It is constructing on the **Yarlung Tsangpo (or Zangbo)** river in Tibet.
- The ambitious project aims to produce **300 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity annually**, more than tripling the capacity of the Three Gorges Dam, the current world leader in hydropower.
- The Brahmaputra, originating in Tibet as the Yarlung Tsangpo, flows through India's **Arunachal Pradesh and Assam** before entering Bangladesh and emptying into the Bay of Bengal.

- China is constructing the dam in **Medog County**, Tibet Autonomous Region, where the **Yarlung Tsangpo** drops 2,000 meters, creating ideal hydropower conditions.
 - The project is part of China's renewable energy initiatives, aiming to **achieve carbon neutrality by 2060** while promoting regional development in Tibet.
 - The project, costing \$137 billion, is part of **China's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021–2025)** and Long-Range Objectives through 2035.
- India and Bangladesh fear China's ability to control water flow—concerns about the dam's use to release excess water during conflicts, causing floods.
- China and India have established **Expert Level Mechanism (ELM) in 2006** to address trans-border river issues under which China provides India with hydrological data on Brahmaputra and Sutlej rivers during flood seasons.
- India is also building its hydropower dam on the **Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh**.

SLINEX 2024 India Sri-Lanka Naval Drill in Visakhapatnam



- SLINEX 2024 was a bilateral naval exercise between **India and Sri Lanka** that took place in **Visakhapatnam** from December 17–20, 2024.
- The exercise was conducted in two phases: **a harbor phase and a sea phase**
- **INS Sumitra** of the Eastern Fleet, along with Special Forces team participated from Indian side, whereas, **SLNS Sayura**, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, along with Special Forces team participated from the Sri Lanka Navy.
- SLINEX series of bilateral exercises were initiated in **2005** and since then regular exercises have been conducted.

Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the 'Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi' initiative



- In a significant step towards strengthening grassroots governance, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, **Dr. Jitendra Singh** launched the '**Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi**' initiative on Good Governance Day
- It focuses on **strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** through innovative tools and capacity-building frameworks.
- It is piloted in **Odisha, Assam, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh**.
- The first initiative unveiled by Dr. Jitendra Singh was the launch of a new dashboard on the **iGOT Karmayogi platform**, along with the milestone introduction of the **1600th e-learning course**

RINL Wins Gold at AP State Energy Conservation Awards 2024



- **Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)**, the corporate entity of **Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP)** has won the prestigious “**Gold Award**” in the **State Energy Conservation Award 2024** competitions (conducted by the State Energy Conservation Mission of Andhra Pradesh) for its significant initiatives towards Energy Conservation in Iron & Steel category.
- The award, presented by the **State Energy Conservation Mission of Andhra Pradesh**, recognizes RINL’s impactful initiatives in energy conservation in the iron and steel sector.
- This prestigious Gold award was bestowed on RINL for implementing Energy conservation measures during **the last 3 years**, harnessing waste energy.

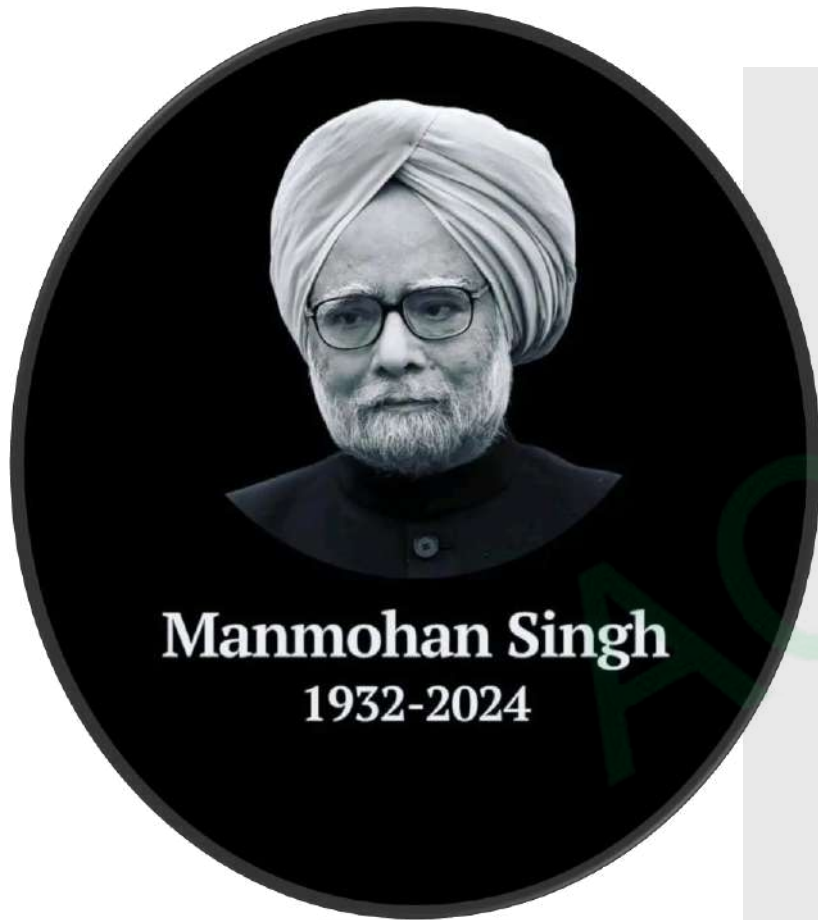
Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar



- The President of India, **Droupadi Murmu** conferred the **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar** on **17 children**, in seven categories, for their exceptional achievements
- There are seven boys and ten girls coming from **14 states and UTs** who were awarded for their extraordinary achievements.
- Two young girls from Maharashtra also features among these seventeen child awardees.
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi participated in Veer Baal Diwas addressing the gathering on the occasion of the **3rd Veer Baal Diwas (December 26th)**

- Fourteen-year-old **Keya Hatkar**, hailing from Mumbai, who is an author, disability advocate and motivational speaker, was awarded for excellence in the field of art and culture
 - Author of two books, namely 'Dancing On My Wheels' and 'I M Possible'!
- A brave heart from Amravati in Maharashtra, 17-year-old **Karina Thapa** was also awarded by the President for her brave act and presence of mind that saved the lives of 36 people during a fire accident.
 - The Municipal Corporation Commissioner gave her recognition as a **Fire Brand Ambassador this year (2024)**.

Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh Passes Away



- **Dr. Manmohan Singh**, former Prime Minister of India and noted economist, passed away at the age of 92.
- Manmohan Singh was born on **September 26, 1932**, in Gah, Punjab (now in Pakistan).
- He served as India's Prime Minister from **2004 to 2014** and played a prominent role in shaping the country's economic policies.
- Second Prime Minister, after Jawaharlal Nehru, to serve for **two consecutive terms**.
- His tenure as **Finance Minister from 1991 to 1996** under Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao is credited with initiating economic reforms that modernized India's economy and facilitated its global integration

- **First person from a minority community** to occupy the office of PM.
- Held critical government positions, including **Chief Economic Advisor, Secretary of Economic Affairs, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, and Chairman of the University Grants Commission.**
- Manmohan Singh was elected to the **Rajya Sabha from Assam** for five consecutive terms: 1991, 1995, 2001, 2007, and 2013.
- He served as the **Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha** from 1998 to 2004 during the Bharatiya Janata Party's tenure in power.
- He was the **fourth longest-serving prime minister** after Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Narendra Modi
- **Padma Vibhushan (1987), the Jawaharlal Nehru Birth Centenary Award (1995)**
- He also won the **Adam Smith Prize (1956) and the Wright's Prize (1955)** from the University of Cambridge.

Kaamya Karthikeyan: Youngest Female to Conquer Seven Summits



- **Kaamya Karthikeyan**, born in 2007 in Mumbai, India, is one of the most significant contributors the world has seen in **mountaineering**.
- Only 17 years old, she became the **youngest female ever to climb the Seven Summits**, which means she climbed the peak of each of the seven continents
- At age 16, Kaamya became the **youngest Indian to scale Mount Everest**.

- **Africa: Mount Kilimanjaro (Tanzania)**
- **Europe: Mount Elbrus (Russia)**
- **Australia: Mount Kosciuszko (Australia)**
- **South America: Mount Aconcagua (Argentina)**
- **North America: Mount Denali (USA)**
- **Asia: Mount Everest (Nepal)**
- **Antarctica: Mount Vinson (Antarctica)**

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Sauraha Hosts 18th Elephant Festival



- **Sauraha in Nepal**, recently hosted the **18th** edition of its annual **Elephant Festival**.
- This vibrant festival celebrates the unique relationship between humans and elephants, showcasing their cultural and economic significance to the region.
- Hosted at the **Baghmara Intermediate Community Forest** near the renowned Chitwan National Park, this five-day event

Gujarat CM Launches SWAR Platform to Bridge Language Barriers



- Gujarat Chief Minister **Bhupendra Patel** has launched a new citizen-centric initiative called the **SWAR (Speech and Written Analysis Resource) platform**
- The SWAR (Speech and Written Analysis Resource) platform was launched on the occasion of **Good Governance Day on December 25**.
- With the Speech-to-Text functionality, citizens can **dictate their messages instead of typing them manually**.
- The platform, developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's **Bhashini Team**
- The SWAR platform uses the indigenous artificial intelligence system, Bhashini, to facilitate this.

Sikkim's Kagyed Dance Festival



- The **Kagyed Dance Festival** is a Buddhist festival in **Sikkim** that takes place in December.
- It is a celebration of faith and tradition that involves masked monks and lamas performing dances and singing songs.
- The festival is celebrated on the 28th and 29th day of the **tenth month of the Tibetan calendar**, which is usually in **December (SSC CGL 2022)**
- The celebrations begin two days **before the start of Loosong**, the Sikkimese new year

Indian Army Unveils Chhatrapati Shivaji Statue at Pangong Tso



- The Indian Army unveiled a statue of **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** on the banks of **Pangong Tso in Ladakh**.
- The statue is located at an altitude of **14,300 feet**.
- Installed by the **Fire and Fury Corps**
- The inauguration ceremony was s led by Lieutenant **General Hitesh Bhalla**, who is the General Commanding Officer of Fire and Fury Corps, and Colonel of the Maratha Light Infantry
- Locals, including the Chushul councillor, questioned the installation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's statue, claiming it was done without consulting residents.

Magnus Carlsen, Nepomniachtchi Share Blitz Title



- At the 2024 World Blitz Championship in Wall Street, New York, **Norway's Magnus Carlsen** and **Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi** shared the title after the final ended in a tie.
- The **first twin winners of the competition.**
- The decision came after three sudden-death games failed to produce a winner.
- At this point, Carlsen suggested they share the title, which Nepomniachtchi agreed to.
- After some discussion and delay FIDE approved the decision.

Bumrah Breaks Record for Fastest 200 Wickets by an Indian



- **Jasprit Bumrah** became the fastest Indian bowler to reach 200 Test wickets during the Boxing Day Test against Australia in Melbourne
- He achieved this feat in his **44th Test match**
- Bumrah reached the milestone with **8,484 balls bowled**, which is the fastest by an Indian.
 - He eclipsed **Mohammed Shami**, who reached the same milestone after 9896 deliveries.
- Bumrah is also the fourth-fastest bowler to reach 200 Test wickets overall, behind Waqar Younis, Dale Steyn, and Kagiso Rabada.
- He dismissed **Travis Head**, marking his 200th Test wicket in just his 44th Test match.

- He also became the first bowler in history to reach 200 Test wickets with an **average under 20**.
 - Bumrah broke the record of West Indies great **Joel Garner**, who reached the milestone with an average of 20.34
- He also holds the record of scoring the **highest number of runs in an over in Test cricket**.
 - He achieved this feat against **Stuart Broad**.
- Bumrah won the **Polly Umrigar Award** for best male cricketer for India twice, in 2018–19 and 2021–22
- He was awarded the Sir **Garfield Sobers Trophy** and the **ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year in the 2024 ICC Awards**.
- Jasprit Bumrah (**908**) achieved a milestone in 2024 by surpassing **Ravichandran Ashwin's highest ICC Test bowling rating** for an Indian bowler

Lakshya Sen Secures Third Place at King Cup



- **Lakshya Sen**, an emerging talent in badminton, won bronze at the inaugural **King Cup International Badminton Open**.
- The competition marked a milestone in his career, as he secured third place by defeating French player **Alex Lanier**.
- Inaugural King Cup International Badminton Open held in **Bangkok, Thailand**
- He won Arjuna Award in 2022
- 4th at Paris Olympics (2024)
- He became the Commonwealth champion at 2022 Commonwealth Games

Jimmy Carter, Former US President and Nobel Laureate, Passes Away



- **Jimmy Carter**, the 39th president of the United States, died at the age of 100.
- James Earl Carter Jr. was an American politician and humanitarian who served as the **39th president of the United States from 1977 to 1981.**
- He became the **oldest living US president in history** after George H.W. Bush died in 2018 at the age of 94.

- He faced challenges during his presidency, including a **struggling economy and the Iran hostage crisis**.
- Despite these obstacles, he is remembered for his dedication to peace and humanitarian efforts.
- After leaving office, Carter continued to promote peace and humanitarian causes.
 - He founded the **Carter Center**, which monitors elections and advocates for human rights globally.
 - His efforts earned him the **Nobel Peace Prize in 2002** for his lifelong commitment to peace and humanitarian work.

China Unveils World's Fastest High-Speed Train Prototype



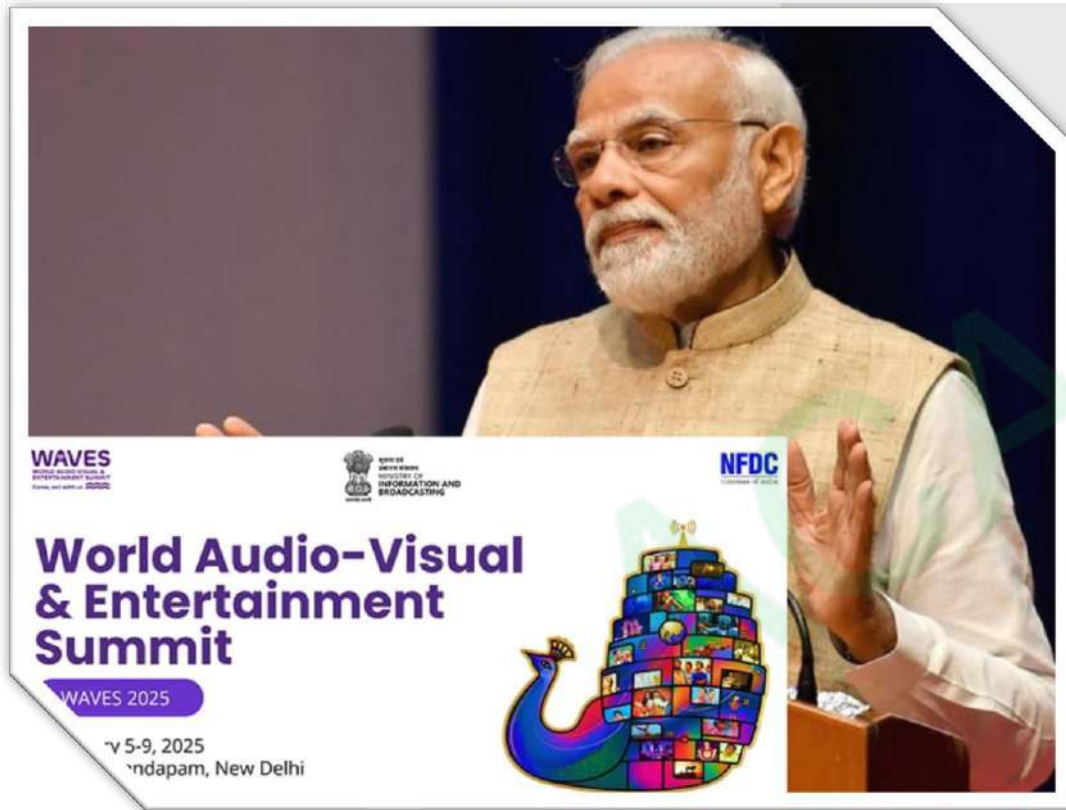
- China unveiled the **CR450** high-speed train prototype in Beijing
- Surpassing the current **CR400 Fuxing trains** (350 km/h)
- The CR450 is the world's fastest high-speed train, with a top speed of 450 km/h during testing.
- It's designed to operate at 400 km/h
- This innovation aligns with China's ambitious plans to expand its **high-speed rail network to 70,000 km by 2035**, cementing its leadership in global rail systems.

Vitul Kumar Appointed Officiating DG of CRPF



- Senior IPS officer **Vitul Kumar** will take charge as **Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** after incumbent **Anish Dayal Singh** retires
- Kumar, a 1993 batch IPS officer of the **Uttar Pradesh cadre**, is currently serving as Special Director General of the CRPF
- The **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** is a central armed police force in India under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
 - The CRPF assists states and Union Territories in maintaining law and order and internal security.

India To Host First Waves Summit in February 2025



- The Government of India is gearing up to host the first World **Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES)** from 5-9 February 2025
- The summit will bolster India's Media & Entertainment industry and enhance global partnerships
- Inspired by international events like the World Economic Forum in Davos, WAVES is expected to bring leaders from media, entertainment, and creative industries worldwide to **New Delhi**.
- Information and Broadcasting Minister: **Ashwini Vaishnaw**

ECI Publishes Detailed Data for Lok Sabha

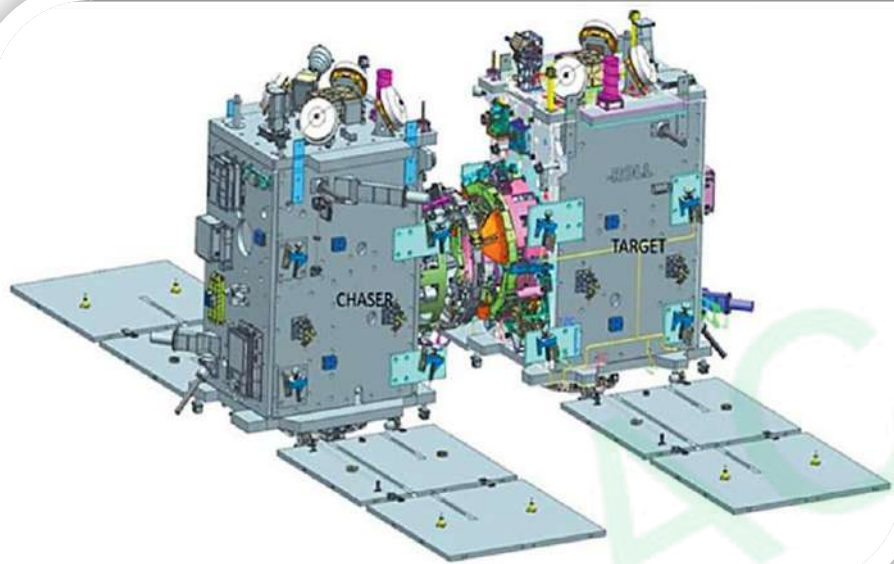


- There were **97,97,51,847 registered electors**, marking a **7.43% increase** from 91,19,50,734 in 2019.
- A total of **64.64 crore votes were cast**, compared to 61.4 crore in 2019.
- **Dhubri (Assam)** recorded the highest turnout at 92.3%, while **Srinagar (J&K)** had the lowest at 38.7%, (up from 14.4% in 2019).
- In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, **12,459 nominations** were filed, up from 11,692 in 2019.
- **Malkajgiri (Telangana)** had the highest with 114 nominations, while **Dibrugarh (Assam)** had the lowest with 3 nominations (excluding Surat).

- **NOTA** received 63,71,839 votes (0.99%) in 2024, and transgender voter turnout stood at **27.09%**
- In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, there were **10,52,664 polling stations**, an increase from 10,37,848 in 2019.
 - **Bihar** saw the highest increase in polling stations, adding 4,739, followed by West Bengal (1,731).
- In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, there were **47,63,11,240 female electors** (48.62% of total electors), up from 43,85,37,911 (48.09%) in 2019.
 - Highest percentage share of Female electors in 2024: **Puducherry (53.03%) followed by Kerala (51.56%).**
 - Dhubri (Assam) recorded the highest female **voter turnout at 92.17%**, followed by Tamluk (West Bengal) with 87.57%.
- In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, **third-gender electors rose by 23.5% to 48,272** (39,075 in 2019), with Tamil Nadu having the highest at 8,467.

- In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, **six national parties participated**, securing a combined vote share of **63.35%** of the total valid votes.
- The **BJP won in 240 seats** (with a vote share of **36.56%**), falling short of the **272-majority mark** and less than the **303 and 282 seats it had won in 2019 and 2014**, respectively.
 - With support from key allies **N Chandrababu Naidu's Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Nitish Kumar's JD(U)**, which won 16 and 12 seats in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, respectively, the NDA crossed the halfway mark.
- The **Congress**, which is part of the opposition INDIA bloc, **won 99 seats** (with a vote share of **21.19%**) compared to 52 it won in 2019.

ISRO Launches Historic SpaDeX Mission for Space Docking



- On December 30, 2024, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the **Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission**.
- The mission's goal was to demonstrate India's ability to dock spacecraft in space.
- On January 16, 2025, the mission was successful, making India the **fourth country to achieve this feat**
- The US, Russia, and China are the other three countries to perform space docking.
- The two satellites are equipped with the **Bharatiya Docking System (BDS)**.
- Mission Duration: **Two years**

- **Orbital/Space docking is joining two space vehicles together in space.**
- **The docking process can be temporary or semi-permanent.**
- **Space docking (Joining of two fast-moving satellites in space) was performed by using two small spacecraft i.e. SDX01 (Chaser), and SDX02(Target) of the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission.**
- **SpaDeX and 24 PS4-Orbital Experiment Module (POEM-4) payloads were launched by ISRO via PSLV-C60 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.**
- **The satellites were maneuvered to dock with each other, with an approach velocity of about 10 millimeters per second.**
- **The satellites were then integrated and controlled as a single object.**
- **The first docking was achieved in 1966 when Gemini 8, under the command of American astronaut Neil Armstrong, docked with Agena Target Vehicle**



The SPADEX Mission Consists of Two Small Spacecraft

Names :

SPADEX-A (SDX01) and SPADEX-B (SDX02)

Mass :

Approximately 220kg

Design :

Built on an extended Microsat Bus

Capabilities :

Androgynous in nature, allowing either spacecraft to act as the chaser during docking.



Kerala Wins Senior National Men's Handball Championship



- Kerala defeated Chandigarh 34-31 to clinch their maiden Senior National Men's Handball Championship title.
- The final of the tournament was held at Changanassery in Kerala.
- Kerala's Devendar was adjudged the 'Best Player of the Championship'
- Rahul got the award for the 'Best Goalkeeper'.
- **The Handball Association of India is the governing body for handball in India.**

Haryana Steelers Clinch Maiden PKL Title



- **Haryana Steelers** etched their name in Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) history by clinching their maiden title with a 32-23 victory over **Patna Pirates** in the Season 11 final
- Pro Kabaddi League, also known as PKL, is an Indian professional **Kabaddi league for men**
- It is the most popular kabaddi league in the world and the third most watched sports league in India **after the Indian Premier League & Indian Super League**
- 2023–24: **Puneri Paltan**

- The final took place at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex Wrestling Hall in **Pune**
- Most raid points: **Pardeep Narwal (1801)**
- Most tackle points: **Fazel Atrachali (524)**
- First tournament: **2014**
- Most successful: **Patna Pirates (3 titles)**

Russia introduces a new tourist tax



- **Russia** introduced a new tourist tax on **January 1, 2025**, to replace the **resort fee**.
- The tax is part of a plan to improve regional tourism infrastructure and stimulate economic growth
- Travelers staying in hotels and other accommodations pay an additional **1% of their lodging costs**
- The tax rate will increase gradually to **3% by 2027**
- Introduced via amendments to the **Russian Tax Code in July 2024**.
- Includes a new chapter titled "**Tourist Tax**".

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India-Nepal “Surya Kiran” Military Exercise Begins



- The 18th edition of the India-Nepal joint military exercise, **Surya Kiran**, began on December 31, 2024 in **Saljhandi, Nepal**.
- The exercise will continue until January 13, 2025.
- The Indian Army contingent is led by a battalion from the **11th Gorkha Rifles**.
- The Nepal Army contingent will be represented by the **Srijung Battalion**.
- The exercise is hosted alternately by India and Nepal
- 17th edition of Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN held in **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand**

India's Coffee Exports Surge to Record High in FY24



- India's coffee exports rose to a record high of **\$1,146.9 million** between April and November in FY24, compared to **\$803.8 million** during the same period last year, registering a **29 per cent rise**.
- This figure is nearly double the exports during the same period in FY21, which stood at \$460 million.
- The growth is driven by the rising global demand for **Robusta** coffee and supply chain disruptions in major coffee-producing countries like Brazil and Vietnam
- In the first half of January 2025 India exported over **9,300 tonnes of coffee** with top buyers including Italy, Belgium, and Russia
- Major export markets: **Italy, Russia, UAE, Germany, and Turkey**.

- **Brazil**'s output dropped due to drought and high temperatures.
- **Vietnam**'s yields remain below historic highs.
- India is the **8th largest coffee grower globally**.
- India Produces two types of coffee.
 - **Arabica**: Premium value due to mild aromatic flavor.
 - **Robusta**: Strong flavor, used in blends, accounting for 72% of India's production.
- India is the **5th largest Robusta producer globally**.
- **Karnataka** is the Largest producer, contributing 71% of India's coffee.
 - **Kerala** is the Second largest, contributing 20%.

Cabinet Approves 7 Major Schemes to Enhance Farmers' Lives and Livelihoods

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, approved seven schemes to improve farmers' lives and increase their incomes at a total outlay of Rs **14,235.30 Crore.**

1. **Digital Agriculture Mission**
2. **Crop science for food and nutritional security**
3. **Strengthening Agricultural Education, Management and Social Sciences**
4. **Sustainable livestock health and production**
5. **Sustainable development of Horticulture**
6. **Strengthening of Krishi Vigyan Kendra**
7. **Natural Resource Management**



Bhuvnesh Kumar Appointed UIDAI CEO



- IAS officer **Bhuvnesh Kumar** took charge as the CEO of the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**, which administers Aadhaar
- Bhuvnesh Kumar succeeds **Amit Agrawal** who was appointed the secretary of department of pharmaceuticals in December
- UIDAI is a statutory authority under MeitY that is responsible for issuing Aadhaar numbers and maintaining the Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR), the centralised database of demographic and biometric data of people issued the identification number.

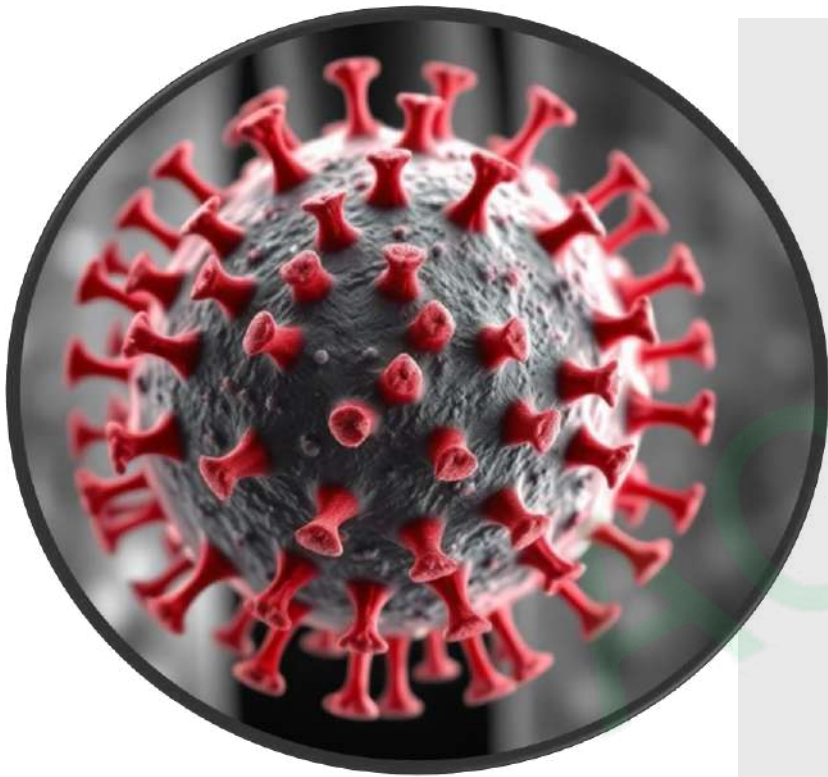
Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2024



- Ace shooter and multiple-time Olympic medallist **Manu Bhaker**
- World chess champion **D Gukesh**
- Indian men's hockey team captain **Harmanpreet Singh**
- Para-athlete **Praveen Kumar**
- **Bhaker made** history as independent India's first athlete to secure two medals in a single Olympic edition.
- **Harmanpreet Singh** captained the Indian hockey team to its second consecutive bronze medal
- 18-year-old **Gukesh D** became the youngest-ever World Chess Champion
- **Praveen Kumar**, claimed the T64 title at the Paris Paralympics

- The Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Awards 2024 are named after the hockey wizard Major **Dhyan Chand** an Indian legendary field hockey player, the "Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award" (erstwhile Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratan Award) is the highest sporting honour in India.
- Announced by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** on **2nd January 2025**, the winners of this award will be facilitated by the President.
- The Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Awards were instituted in **1991-92**
- First winner: **Viswanathan Anand**
- In 2001, sport shooter **Abhinav Bindra**, then aged 18, became the youngest recipient of the award
- First Cricketer: **Sachin Tendulkar**
- 2023: **Chirag Shetty & Satwiksairaj Rankireddy**, Badminton

Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) Outbreak in China



- China is experiencing a surge in **Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV)** cases, raising public health concerns; this is considered an outbreak, with a significant increase in detected HMPV infections, particularly in northern provinces of the country
- It was discovered in **2001** by researchers in the **Netherlands**.
- It causes acute respiratory infections, similar to flu and Covid-19.
- HMPV spreads through close contact or by touching contaminated surfaces.
- HMPV belongs to the Pneumoviridae family, which includes RSV, measles, and mumps viruses.

Blinkit Launches 10-Minute Ambulance Service in Gurgaon



- On January 2, 2025, **Blinkit** launched a 10-minute ambulance service in Gurugram, India.
- The service aims to provide **quick and reliable medical assistance** in emergencies
- Blinkit's entry into emergency healthcare marks a bold shift from its logistics-focused business model.
- Blink Commerce Private Limited is an Indian quick-commerce service.
- It was founded in December **2013** and is based in Gurgaon
- Blinkit CEO: **Albinder Dhinsa**

Renowned Botanist K.S. Manilal Passes Away



- Eminent botanist and **Padma Shri awardee Kattungal Subrahmanyam Manilal** passed away on January 1, 2025, in Thrissur
- In recognition of his contributions to science and engineering, Manilal was honored with the **Padma Shri in 2020.**
- He was renowned for translating the 17th-century Latin botanical treatise “**Hortus Malabaricus**” into English and Malayalam, significantly contributing to the documentation of India’s rich botanical heritage.
- Manilal's efforts ultimately resulted in an English edition of Hortus Malabaricus, for the first time, **325 years after its original publication from Amsterdam.**
- Hortus Malabaricus is a 17th-century Latin botanical treatise documenting the varieties and **medicinal properties of the flora of the Malabar coast.**

India's First Glass Bridge over the sea



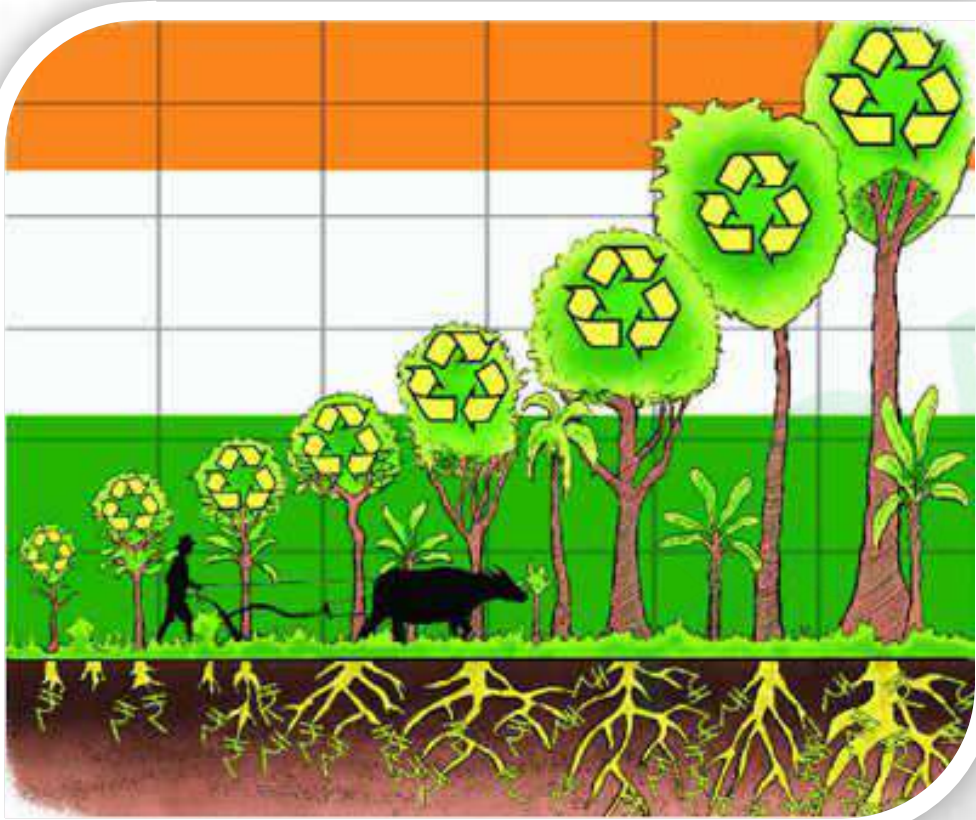
- India's first glass bridge, the **Kanyakumari Sea Glass Bridge**, opened on December 30, 2024 in Tamil Nadu
- A **77-meter-long and 10-metre wide glass bridge** connecting the **Vivekananda Rock Memorial** and the 133-feet high **Thiruvalluvar statue** off the coast of Kanyakumari
- It was inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **M K Stalin**
- It offers views of the Indian Ocean
- The bowstring arch glass bridge has been designed to withstand the saline breeze

Mike Johnson Re-Elected as US House Speaker



- US House of Representatives Speaker **Mike Johnson** was reelected to the chamber's top job after lengthy Capitol Hill voting.
- Mike Johnson is the **56th Speaker of the US House of Representatives** and a Republican member of Congress.
- On October 25, 2023, after Speaker **Kevin McCarthy** was ousted from the position, Johnson was elected to replace him
- He is known for his conservative values and has held office in the House since **2017**.
- Johnson secured the position with the support of President-elect **Donald Trump**

Chhattisgarh first state to link forest ecosystem with Green GDP



- In a first, the **Chhattisgarh** state has introduced an innovative plan that connects the **ecosystem services** of its forests with the **Green Gross Domestic Product (Green GDP)**.
- The moves aimed to highlight the **direct link between significant environmental contributions of forests** like **clean air, water conservation, biodiversity and the state's economic progress**.
 - Quantifying benefits such as clean air (**CO₂ absorption and oxygen production**), water conservation (**economic impact of rivers and springs**), and biodiversity (**ecological balance and farming support**).
 - These valuations will be incorporated into the state's Green GDP calculations.

- Forest accounts for Chhattisgarh's **44% of land cover** playing crucial role in mitigating climate change.
- Green GDP' was coined in the late 1980s with aspiration to modify GDP better to reflect the **impacts of economic activities on the environment**.
- Green GDP refers to **environmentally adjusted** gross domestic product (GDP).
- **Green GDP = Net Domestic Product - (Cost of Depletion of Natural Resources + Cost of Degradation of Ecosystem)**
- GDP overlooks environmental depletion and degradation, often treating them as economic gains.
 - For instance, cutting down a rainforest and selling the timber increases GDP but harms long-term wellbeing and growth.

India Revises GDP Base Year to 2022-23



- The Indian government has recently decided to revise the base year for calculating Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from **2011-12 to 2022-23**.
- Aiming to provide a more accurate representation of the current economic structure by incorporating recent economic changes and data sources into the calculation
- **Base year** is a **benchmark used for GDP calculation**.
 - It allows for comparison of **economic growth over a period of time** by eliminating the effects of **inflation**.
 - The base year should ideally be revised every **5 to 10 years** to keep national accounts in line with the latest available data.

- The base year should be a **normal year** i.e., it must not experience any abnormal incidents such as droughts, floods, earthquakes, pandemic, etc. Also, it should not be too distant in the past.
 - Year 2016 (Demonetisation), 2017-18 (ripple effects of GST) and 2019-21 (Covid-19) are not considered because of abnormal changes in the economy.
- Since the first national income estimates were published in **1956 with FY 1949 as the base year**, India has revised its base year seven times.
- The previous base year revision in 2015 changed the base year from 2004-05 to **2011-12** but faced criticism
- 26-member Advisory Committee on **National Accounts Statistics (NAS)** under chairmanship of **Biswanath Goldar** has been formed to identify new data sources & refine methodology for compiling NAS.
 - **Central Statistics Office** brings out NAS annually which includes GDP estimates from multiple approaches.
- The Government of India formed a working group to **revise the base year of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from 2011-12 to 2022-23.**
 - The group is chaired by Professor **Ramesh Chand**, a member of the NITI Aayog.

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FEBRUARY 1

Hanoi Declared World's Most Polluted City



- **Hanoi, Vietnam** was named the world's most polluted city by **AirVisual**, an air quality monitoring company.
- This was due to thick smog that enveloped the city
- Levels of hazardous small particles, known as PM2.5, were measured at **266 micrograms per cubic metre** in Hanoi

UDISE+ Report 2023-24

UDISE+

Department of
School Education &
Literacy
Ministry of Education
Government of India



- In **UDISE+ 2023-24** for the first time, at national level individual student wise data has been collected from all recognized schools in country through UDISE+ since 2022-23.
- It is aligned with recommendations of **NEP 2020**.
- The Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) report has been released by the **Ministry of Education**.
- UDISE+ is one of the largest **Management Information Systems** initiated by the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education, Government of India, covering more than 14.72 lakhs of schools, 98.08 lakhs of teachers, and 24.80 crores of children.

- Enrolment fell from 26.36 crore (2018-2022 average) to 25.17 crore in 2022-23 and **24.8 crore in 2023-24**, a drop of **1.55 crore students**.
- Government school enrolment dropped by **5.59%**, and private school enrolment fell by **3.67%**
- Enrolment of **boys declined by 6.04%** and **girls by 5.76%**, compared to the 2018-19 to 2021-22 average.
- Largest declines recorded in **Bihar (35.65 lakh)**, **Uttar Pradesh (28.26 lakh)**, and **Maharashtra (18.55 lakh)**.
- Decline observed across **primary, upper primary, and secondary levels**.
 - Enrolment in pre-primary and higher secondary levels rose in 2023-24 compared to the previous average.

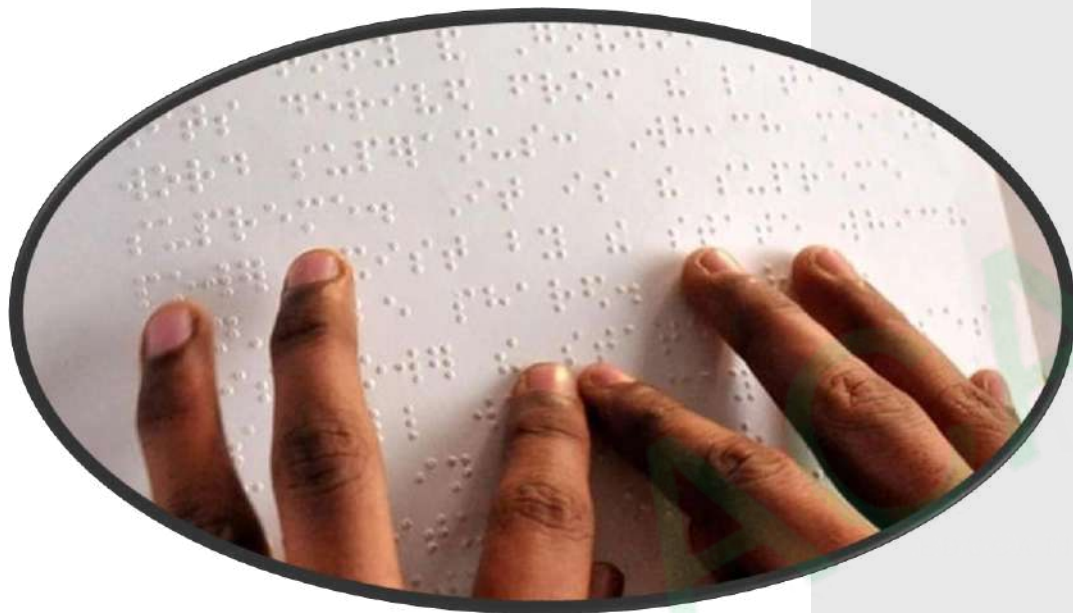
Jallikattu: Thatchankurichi Hosts 2025's First Event



- The first Jallikattu (taming of bulls) event of 2025 kicked off to a colourful start at **Thatchankurichi village** in Pudukottai district of Tamil Nadu
- Jallikattu is also referred to as "**eru thazhuvuthal**" and "**mañcuvirattu**"
- It is celebrated on **Mattu Pongal** Day (3rd day of Pongal), where a bull is released, and participants tame a bull to win coins tied to its horn.
- The Tamil Nadu government has issued a **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)** for safe Jallikattu events in 2025, guided by the Animal Welfare Board of India.

- A seal representing Jallikattu was found at the **Indus Valley site**, preserved in the National Museum, New Delhi.
- References to bull taming are found in a seal from **Mohenjodaro** (2,500–1,800 BC).
- A 1500-year-old cave painting near **Madurai** also depicts the sport.
- Jallikattu is mentioned in **Silappadikaram** by Ilango, a Sangam-era Tamil epic.
- **Kambala** is also a traditional buffalo race that originated in the coastal regions of **Karnataka**

World Braille Day 2025



- World Braille Day, celebrated on **4th January**
- The day commemorates the birth of **Louis Braille**, the inventor of Braille, a tactile code that empowers blind and visually impaired individuals to access written information.
- The first Braille system was published in **1829** - and was adopted by the National Institute for Blind Youth.
- The day was recognised in **2019 by the United Nations**.
- World Braille Day 2025 aims to promote Braille literacy and highlight the right to access information, education, and culture for people with visual impairments.

Faiz Ahmed Kidwai Appointed as DGCA Director General



- **Faiz Ahmed Kidwai**, a 1996-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer was appointed as the director general of the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**.
- He is presently serving as additional secretary in the **Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**
- Appointed by the appointed by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet**
- **Vikram Dev Dutt**, who previously served as DG of the aviation regulator from 2023, stepped down on October 20, 2024 after his appointment as the coal secretary.
- Since then, **Dinesh Chand Sharma**, the senior most joint director general of DGCA, has held additional charge.

Decline in Rural-to-Urban Migration in India



- Recent data from a study titled '**400 Million Dreams!**' by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) indicates **decline in rural to urban migration in India.**
- The report reveals a reduction of 5.4 million migrants, or **11.8 per cent**, compared to 2011.
- This decline is attributed to various factors, including improved government services and better economic opportunities in rural areas.
- The overall migration rate fell from **37.6% in 2011 to 28.9% in 2023**, with economic migration declining by **5 million**, from 45 million in 2011 to 40 million in 2023.

Inaugural Kho Kho World Cup 2025



- The **2025 Kho Kho World Cup** was the first edition of the Kho Kho World Cup.
- It was held at the **Indira Gandhi Arena in New Delhi, India** from **13 to 19 January 2025**.
- The tournament was organized by the **Kho Kho Federation of India** and the **International Kho Kho Federation**.
- Mascots:
 - **Tejas (Men's Team)**: A blue gazelle symbolizing brilliance and energy.
 - **Tara (Women's Team)**: An orange gazelle representing guidance and aspiration.
- India defeated Nepal in both the men's and women's competition to be crowned champions

- Men's Trophy: **Blue Trophy**, Represents: **Trust, determination, and universal appeal.**
- Women's Trophy: **Green Trophy**, Represents: **Growth and vitality.**
- Notable Performers-→Men's: **Ramji Kashyap**, Women's: **B Chaithra.**
- **Kho Kho** is one of India's oldest traditional tag games, believed to have evolved from the Chakravyuha, a war formation in the Mahabharata, resembling a defensive tactic similar to Kho Kho's ring play.
- A Kho Kho team consists of **9 active players**, with 3 substitutes available.
- Kho Kho was demonstrated at the **Berlin 1936 Olympics**, alongside other indigenous Indian sports like kabaddi and mallakhamb.
- Kho Kho was a demonstration sport at the **1982 Delhi Asian Games.**
- The first national level All India Kho Kho Championship for men was held at **Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh in 1959-60.**
- The first national championship for women was held in **Kolhapur, Maharashtra in 1960-61.**
- **Kolkata** hosted the first Kho Kho Asian Championship in 1996.

West Bengal Wins 33rd Santosh Trophy Title



- In the 2024 edition, **West Bengal** reaffirmed its dominance by securing a record-extending 33rd title with a narrow 1-0 victory over **Kerala** in the final.
- The final of the 78th edition of the Santosh Trophy 2024-25 was played at the **GMC Balayogi Stadium in Hyderabad, Telangana**
- It is the national football championship for men.
- West Bengal are the most successful team in the Santosh Trophy, having won 33 titles

- Started in **1941**, the Santosh Trophy is one of Indian football's legacy tournaments.
 - **West Bengal**, then named Bengal, went on to win the inaugural Santosh Trophy title in 1941-42 after beating Delhi Delhi in the final.
 - In fact, West Bengal are also the most successful team in Santosh Trophy history, having won the title **33 times** while finishing runners-up on 14 occasions.
 - West Bengal also hold the record for the **most successive Santosh Trophy titles**, having won six back-to-back editions between 1993 and 1999.
- **Punjab** are the second-most successful team with eight titles.
- **Kerala and Services** are third with seven Santosh Trophy titles each.
- **First Overseas Final:** The Santosh Trophy 2022-23 final was played in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**, where Karnataka defeated Meghalaya.
- **2023-24: Services(Winners), Goa(Runner-up)**

Former Greek PM Costas Simitis Dies at 88



- **Konstantinos G. Simitis** was a Greek politician who led the 'Modernization' movement of Greece
- Served as Greece's PM from **1996 to 2004**.
- He was instrumental in **Greece's integration** into the European Union's single currency, **the euro**, in **2001**
- During his government, Simitis **reduced the budget deficit** and **public debt** to make Athens qualify for euro zone membership.

India's Nuclear Visionary: Dr. R. Chidambaram Passes Away



- **Dr. Rajagopala Chidambaram**, a pioneering figure in atomic energy, passed away at the age of 88
- Rajagopala Chidambaram was an Indian physicist who is known for his integral role in India's **nuclear weapons program**
- Throughout his career, Chidambaram played a key role in developing India's nuclear weapons, being a part of the team conducting the **first Indian nuclear test (Smiling Buddha) at Pokhran Test Range in 1974.**
- He gained international fame when he led and represented the team of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) while observing and leading efforts to conduct the second nuclear tests in **May 1998.**

- He was part of the team that carried out India's first nuclear test, a peaceful nuclear explosion, at **Pokhran in 1974**.
- As **Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission**, Dr. Chidambaram led the successful nuclear tests in **1998 at Pokhran**, which included four nuclear fission bombs and one nuclear fusion bomb.
- He was the **longest-serving Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA)** to the Indian government, holding the position from **2002 to 2018**.
- **Padma Shri (1975) and the Padma Bhushan (1999)**.

World's Oldest Person, Tomiko Itooka, Dies At 116 Years



- **Tomiko Itooka**, a Japanese woman, died at the age of 116 years and 220 days.
- She was the world's oldest person according to **Guinness World Records**.
- She became the oldest person in the world after **Spain's Maria Branyas Morera** passed away in August 2024 at age 117.
- She was verified as the world's oldest person in September 2024 and was presented with the official GWR certificate on the Respect for the Aged Day
- **Brazilian nun Inah Canabarro Lucas**, who was born 16 days after Itooka and is 116, is now believed to be the world's oldest person.
 - **Oldest living nun (since 17 January 2023)**

India Welcomes Its First Generation Beta Baby



- India welcomed its first baby of the new generation, 'Gen Beta'. Born at 12:03 AM on January 1
- **Baby Frankie** from Mizoram's Aizawl
- Children born from 2025 to 2039 are considered 'Generation Beta.'
- Globally, a baby girl named **Remi in Australia** is considered the first of the new Beta generation.
- **Baby Boomers:** The generation born between 1946-1964
- **Generation X:** Born between 1965 and 1980
- **Millennials (Gen Y):** The generation born between 1981 and 1996
- **Generation Z:** Belongs to those born between 1997 and 2010.
- **Generation Alpha:** Children of millennials born between 2011 and 2024.

Amit Shah to Launch CBI's BHARATPOL Portal



- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, inaugurates the **BHARATPOL portal** in New Delhi
- 'BHARATPOL' and the three new criminal laws will serve as a strong mechanism to catch fugitives who flee abroad
- Developed by the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**, the portal allows central and state agencies to connect with the **International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)** for real-time information sharing, replacing the previous system where only the CBI had this access.
- Centralized platform to process INTERPOL requests, including Red Notices and other color-coded notices.

Jammu Becomes Indian Railways' 69th Division



- A new railway division named the '**Jammu Railway Division**' will soon be established, as Indian Railways prepares to bring broad-gauge railway connectivity to Kashmir.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is set to inaugurate the division
- The total number of divisions across Indian Railways will rise **to 69, spread over 17 zones.**
- The decision to create a Jammu Railway Division was first announced in 2014, but its implementation faced delays.
- These routes were previously part of the **Ferozepur division under Northern Railways.**
- The Jammu Railway Division will be the first to have its headquarters in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The last new railway division in India was the **Salem Railway Division**, established in 2007.

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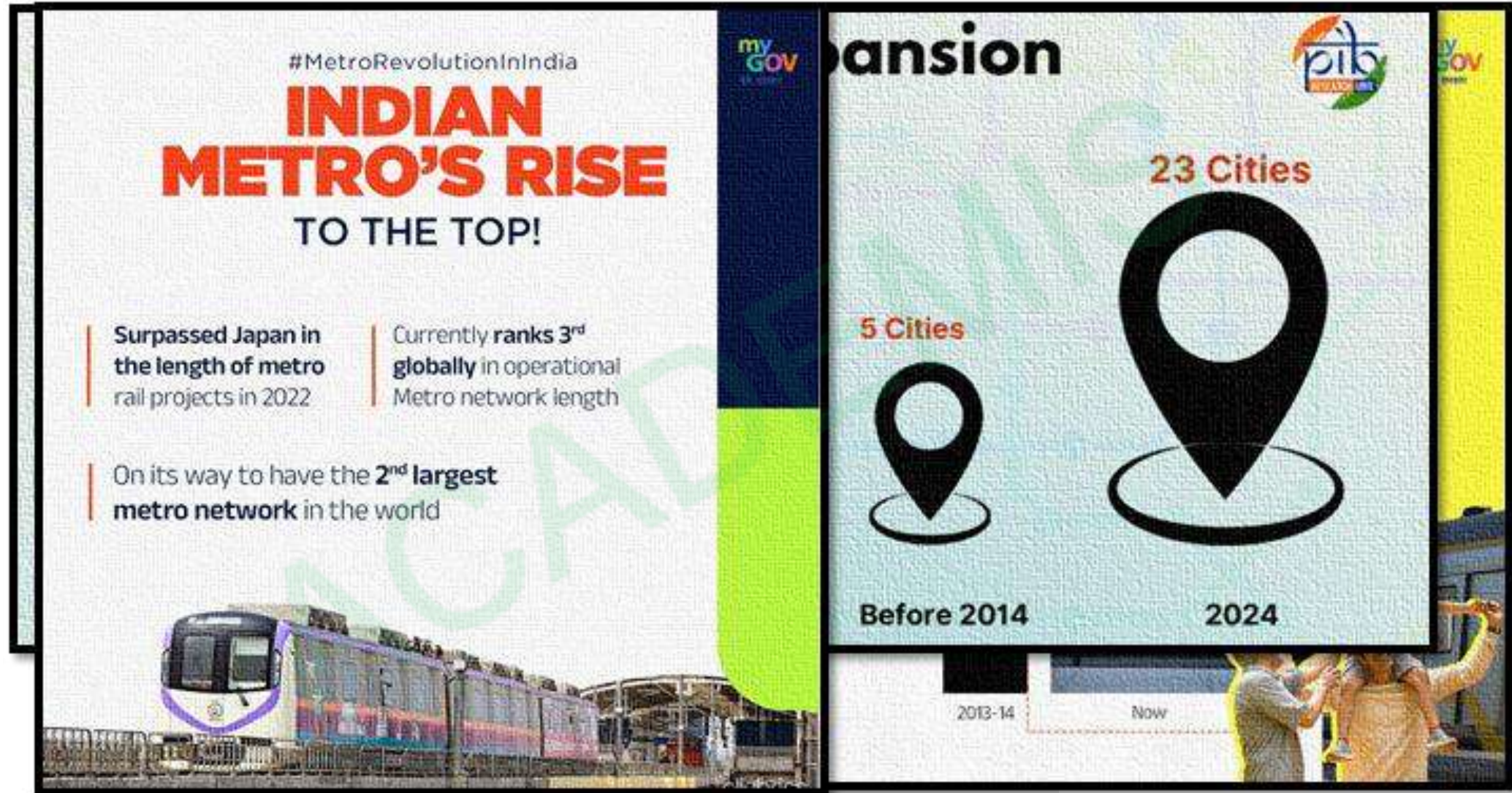
2025

FEBRUARY 2

India's Metro Rail Network Surpasses 1,000 km, Becoming World's Third Largest



- India's metro rail network has expanded to an impressive 1,000 kilometers, making it the third-largest metro network in the world, after **China and the United States**.
- This remarkable achievement highlights the nation's rapid progress in urban infrastructure and transportation development
- Covering over 1,000 km across 11 states and 23 cities
- India has surpassed Japan in Metro Rail Projects in 2022.
- Currently, India **ranks third** globally in **operational Metro network** length



First Photographic Evidence of Pallas's Cat in Himachal Pradesh



- The first photographic evidence of Pallas's cat was found during a snow leopard survey recently in **Himachal Pradesh**
- Pallas's cat Scientific name: ***Otocolobus manul***
- Palla's Cat is named after **Peter Simon Pallas**, who first described it in 1776.
- It is native to Central Asia, with its range extending to **western Iran, Mongolia, China, Russia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan**
- Listed as **Least Concern** on the IUCN Red List.

Centre Launches India's First Organic Fisheries Cluster in Sikkim



- Union Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Minister **Rajiv Ranjan Singh** launched the country's first organic fisheries cluster in **Sikkim**
- It was launched under the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**.
- It aims to produce antibiotic, chemical, and pesticide-free organic fish for eco-conscious markets globally.
- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development** will fund infrastructure, build capacities, and form **Fisheries-based Farmer Producer Organizations (FFPOs)** to support the cluster.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Announced His Resignation



- Canadian Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** announced he intends to step down as the country's prime minister, leaving office once a new ruling party leader is chosen.
- Canada's parliament will be suspended until **March 24** while a new leader is chosen
- Trudeau, leader of the **Liberal Party** for 11 years and prime minister for nine, was facing a mounting set of crises, from Donald Trump's tariff threats to the resignation of key allies and disastrous opinion polls.
- 23rd prime minister of Canada **since 2015** and the leader of the Liberal Party since 2013

Shigemi Fukahori, Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Survivor Dies at 93



- **Shigemi Fukahori**, a survivor of the 1945 atomic bombing of Nagasaki, passed away at the age of 93
- Fukahori dedicated his life to advocating for peace and nuclear disarmament, often sharing his painful experiences with students and people around the world.
- Fukahori was 14 years old when the U.S. dropped the atomic bomb on Nagasaki on **August 9, 1945**, killing tens of thousands, including his family.

India's First Coastal and Wader Bird Census in Jamnagar



- **Gujarat government** and Bird Conservation Society of Gujarat (BCSG) conducted **India's first coastal and wader bird census** from January 3 to 5, 2025,
- The census was done at the **Marine National Park and Marine Sanctuary in Jamnagar**.
- Jamnagar district in Gujarat hosts 300+ bird species, including 50+ wader bird species
- It is being done by the **Gujarat Forest Department** in collaboration with **Bird Conservation Society Gujarat**, an NGO.
- **Wader birds** are birds that are found around reservoirs, ponds, rivers, lakes, seas or other water bodies

Lionel Messi Honoured with the US Presidential Medal of Freedom



- **Lionel Messi**, captain of the Argentina men's football team honoured with the United States Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civilian award.
- This recognition making him the **first male footballer** to receive this prestigious honour
- Lionel Messi is now the **second footballer ever** to receive the US Presidential Medal of Freedom.
- The first was **Megan Rapinoe**, an American women's football star, who was honoured in 2022.

V. Narayanan Takes Over as ISRO Chief and Space Secretary



- **Dr. V. Narayanan** will succeed S. Somanath as **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman and Secretary of the Department of Space (DoS)**, starting 14th January 2025, for a two-year tenure.
- Prior to this, he served as Director, **Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)**, one of the major Centres of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), with its headquarters at **Valiamala in Thiruvananthapuram** and a unit at Bangalore
- As ISRO Chairman, Narayanan will oversee the launch of **NVS-02 for India's navigation system**, lead the unmanned **Gaganyaan mission** with **Vyommitra**, and the Indo-US **NISAR satellite** launch in March 2025.
- He was also responsible for the Propulsion Systems for Venus Orbiter, **Chandrayaan-4**, **Gaganyaan**, **Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS)** and **Next Generational Launch Vehicle programme** cleared by Cabinet recently.

Bahadur Singh Sagoo Elected as AFI President



- A two-time Olympian in the shot put, **Bahadur Singh Sagoo** was elected unopposed.
- He replaced **Adille Sumariwalla**, who was the president for three consecutive terms.
- Bahadur Singh Sagoo was the sole candidate in contention for the position of AFI president after incumbent senior vice president **Anju Bobby George** dropped out of the race for the position.
- A **Padma Shri recipient(2006)**, Bahadur Singh Sagoo represented India at the **Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004 Olympics**

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2025



- The 18th PBD Convention is scheduled for January 8-10, 2025, in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha.**
- The theme for this year is the “***Diaspora's contribution to a Viksit Bharat***” (Developed India).
- Prime Minister remotely flagged-off the inaugural journey of the **Pravasi Bharatiya Express**, a special Tourist Train for the Indian diaspora, which will depart from the **Nizamuddin Railway Station in Delhi** and would travel to multiple destinations of touristic and religious importance in India for a period of three weeks.
- The Pravasi Bharatiya Express will be conducted under **the Pravasi Teertha Darshan Yojana** of the Ministry of External Affairs.

- The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) celebrated once in two years on **9th January** is a significant event that honors the contributions of the Indian diaspora to their homeland.
- The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention was first established in **2003** under the government of then Prime Minister Late Shri **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**, as a platform to recognize and engage with the overseas Indian community.
- The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is the flagship event of the **Ministry of External Affairs**.
- It is held in different cities, to showcase the diversity and progress of different regions of India.
- Since **2015**, it has evolved into a biennale event, with theme-based conferences held in the intervening years
- The day also commemorates the day in **1915 when Mahatma Gandhi**, the greatest Pravasi (migrant), returned to India from South Africa to lead the country's freedom struggle.
- The 17th PBD Convention, held from January 8-10, 2023, in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**

Maha Kumbh Mela 2025



- The Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, a sacred pilgrimage, held in **Prayagraj** from **13th January to 26th February 2025**, drawing millions of pilgrims for spiritual purification, cultural celebration, and unity.
- Historically, the Maha Kumbh Mela has been referenced since ancient times, with records dating back to the **Maurya and Gupta periods**.
- Recognized by **UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage**, the Kumbh Mela symbolizes India's enduring traditions, fostering unity, spirituality, and cultural exchange among millions worldwide.

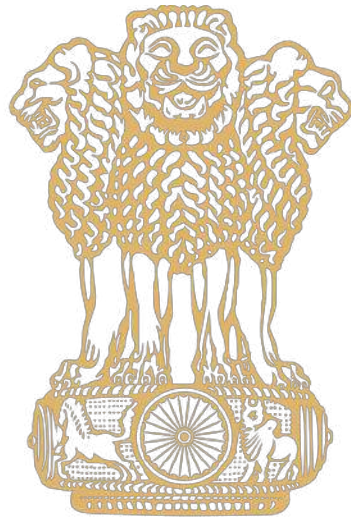
- The Maha Kumbh Mela is celebrated at Prayag after **144 years** (after 12 'Purna Kumbh Melas').
- It is the **largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth**, during which participants bathe or take a dip in a sacred river.
- This gathering takes place at 4 different places, namely:
 1. In **Haridwar**, on the banks of the **Ganges**.
 2. In **Ujjain**, on the banks of **Shipra**.
 3. In **Nashik**, on the banks of **Godavari (Dakshin Ganga)**.
 4. In **Prayagraj**, at the confluence of the **Ganges, the Yamuna**, and the mythical invisible Saraswati.
- The **Kumbh Mela** is celebrated 4 times over a course of **12 years**, rotating between four different holy sites in India: **Haridwar, Prayagraj, Ujjain, and Nashik**, with each location hosting the festival once every three years
- At Haridwar and Prayagraj, **Ardh-Kumbh Mela** is held every 6th year.
- **Maagh Kumbh** is celebrated every year in the month of Maagh (Jan-Feb) in Prayagraj.

Banded Royal Butterfly Discovered in Tripura



- Tripura recorded a milestone in biodiversity documentation with the first-ever recording of the Banded Royal butterfly
- The **Banded Royal butterfly** (*Rachana jalindra indra*) was first spotted in Tripura in **May 2021**, during an opportunistic survey in **Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary**
- This discovery was made in the **Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary** in the Sepahijala district.
- The Banded Royal butterfly is protected under Schedule II of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

10 Years of NITI Aayog



सत्यमेव जयते

NITI Aayog

- The **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)** completed 10 years of service on January 1, 2025.
- It was established on **January 1, 2015** to replace the Planning Commission.
- NITI Aayog is an advisory body created through a resolution of the union cabinet (i.e. **neither constitutional nor statutory body**).
- It is led by the **Prime Minister as the Chairperson**, with the Vice-Chairperson and CEO leading the executive functions.
- Focus on **cooperative federalism**, long-term development, and policy research.
- **Bottom-up**, encouraging state participation and cooperation.

Assam Launches Gunotsav 2025



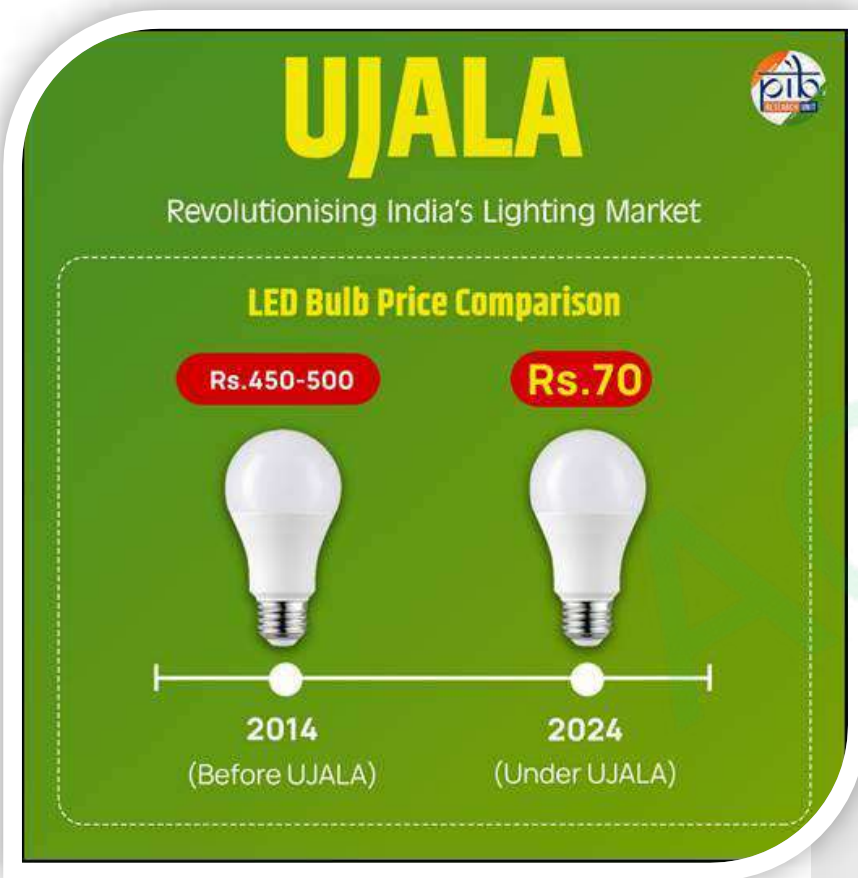
- The Assam government launched the first phase of its flagship education evaluation programme, **Gunotsav 2025, on January 6, 2025.**
- This initiative is aimed at assessing the quality of education and ensuring improved learning outcomes for nearly **14.11 lakh students across the state.**
- It aims to improve educational standards and create a better learning environment.
- The theme of 'Gunotsav 2025' is "**Ensuring Quality Education.**"
- External evaluators such as the chief minister, MLAs, chief secretary, college teachers, and government officials will visit schools for the evaluation process.

Abdali Missile



- The **Abdali missile (Hatf-2)** is a short-range ballistic missile developed by **Pakistan**.
- It is used by the Pakistan Army to target military bases, airfields, and infrastructure
- It is developed by the **Pakistan Space Research Commission (SUPARCO)**
- it is primarily used for targeting military bases and infrastructure with relatively small warheads.
- Bangladesh is reportedly considering buying Abdali Short-Range Ballistic Missiles (SRBMs) from Pakistan due to **growing tensions with India**.

10 Years of UJALA Scheme



- The **UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All) scheme**, launched on **5th January 2015** by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marked its 10th anniversary as a groundbreaking initiative in energy efficiency.
- Introduced as the **Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP)** and later rebranded, UJALA set out to revolutionise household lighting by providing affordable energy-efficient LED bulbs, tube lights, and fans to millions of Indian homes.
- Over the past decade, **more than 36 crore LED bulbs** have been distributed across the country,
- The UJALA scheme has contributed to **reducing India's carbon footprint**

T. Pandey Revenue Secretary and A. Chawla Secretary DIPAM Appointed



- Finance Secretary **Tuhin Kanta Pandey** took charge as the **revenue secretary** in the finance ministry.
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** has appointed Tuhin Kanta Pandey as Secretary, **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance**
- **Arunish Chawla** will take over Pandey's previous role at **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)**
- **Tuhin Kanta Pandey now appointed as the Chairman Securities and Exchange Board of India**

IIT-Madras Sets Record with Asia's Largest Wave Basin



- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras inaugurated **Asia's largest shallow wave basin research facility.**
- A **shallow wave basin** is a large, multi-directional wave tank used for research and industrial purpose and to **study wave-current interactions**
- The facility was established by the **National Technology Centre for Ports Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC)**, which is the technology arm of the Ministry of Shipping, Government of India.
- The facility is designed to meet the research and industry requirements of India, particularly in **coastal engineering and port management.**

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2025

FEBRUARY 3

Lebanon Elects General Joseph Aoun as President



- **General Joseph Aoun**, a 60-year-old career soldier, has been elected president of Lebanon, filling a position that had been vacant for over two years.
- He is the **fifth army commander** in Lebanon's history to become president, and succeeds former President **Michel Aoun**, who is not related to him.
- Lebanon has been without a president **since October 2022**, leading to a significant governance vacuum
- Lebanon faces severe financial crisis with widespread poverty and inflation.

Renowned Playback Singer P. Jayachandran Passes Away



- Renowned Malayalam playback singer P. Jayachandran passed away on January 9, 2025 at the age of 80.
- He recorded over 16,000 songs in Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Hindi, was widely recognised for his contribution to Indian music
- In 1986, he won the National Film Award for Best Male Playback Singer and also won Kerala State Film Award five times.
- In 2020, he was awarded the J. C. Daniel Award, the highest award in Malayalam cinema, for his outstanding contributions to Malayalam cinema.
- He is widely regarded as one of the greatest expression singers in South India.
- He also won 2 Tamil Nadu state film awards.

Mount Ibu Erupts in North Maluku, Indonesia



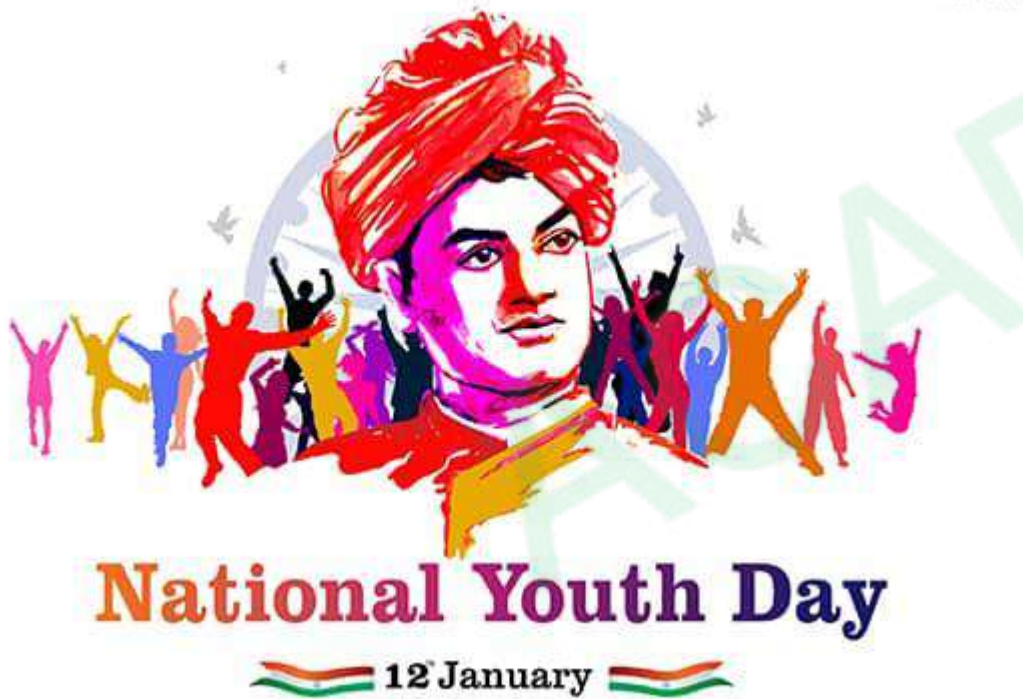
- **Mount Ibu** in **Indonesia**'s North Maluku province erupted multiple times in January 2025, including on January 11 and 15.
- The volcano is located on the island of **Halmahera**.
- Indonesia is situated on the Pacific “**Ring of Fire**,” making it one of the most volcanically active regions globally.
- The Ring of Fire, also called the **Circum-Pacific Belt**, is a horseshoe-shaped area in the Pacific Ocean known for frequent earthquakes and active volcanoes
- Mount Ibu is among the **127 active volcanoes in the country**.

Kumbhvani FM Channel Launched for Maha Kumbh 2025



- Prasar Bharati has launched the OTT-based **Kumbhvani FM** channel to disseminate comprehensive information about the Mahakumbh.
- Broadcasting at a frequency of **103.5 MHz**, Kumbhvani went live on January 10 and will run through February 26, providing 17 hours of daily programming
- Prasar Bharati launched the special FM channel Kumbhvani during the Kumbh festivals in **2013, 2019**, and now again in 2025, ensuring that the spirit of Mahakumbh reaches even the most distant regions.
- Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting: **Dr. L. Murugan (attended online)**

National Youth Day January 12th



- **12th of January** 2025 marks the **162nd** birth anniversary of **Swami Vivekananda**, and is celebrated as National Youth Day.
- It is hosted by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports**, in partnership with one of the States or Union Territories (UTs).
- On National Youth Day, the Prime Minister also participated in the **Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025** where he engaged with 3,000 dynamic young leaders from across India, selected through a merit-based, multi-level process (called Viksit Bharat Challenge) from over 30 lakh participants.
- The theme for the NYF 2025 is "**Youth for a Sustainable Future: Shaping the Nation with Resilience and Responsibility**".

- January 12th is **National Youth Day in India**, which is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- It is also known as **Vivekananda Jayanti or Rashtriya Yuva Diwas**.
- The Indian government declared January 12th as National Youth Day in **1984** and since 1985 the event is celebrated in India every year
- Swami Vivekananda, born as **Narendra Nath Datta** on **12th January 1863**, was a monk and the chief disciple of Ramakrishna Paramhansa.
- In 1893, upon the request of **Maharaja Ajit Singh of the Khetri State**, he took the name 'Vivekananda', changing from 'Sachidananda' that he used before.
- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose referred to him as the "**maker of modern India**."
- He addressed the Parliament of Religions held in **Chicago in 1893**, at which he represented Hinduism.
- He founded the **Ramakrishna Math in 1897**
- Passed away on **July 4, 1902**.
- The youth, defined as those within the age group of 15-29 years, make up **nearly 40% of India's total population**.

150 Years of India Meteorological Department (IMD)



- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) will celebrate its 150th anniversary on **January 15, 2025**.
- The IMD is a government agency that provides weather and climate services to India.
- It is one of the earliest government departments in India to systematically observe and forecast weather
- The IMD was established in **1875**.
- It is part of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.
- The first meteorological observatory was established in **1785 at Kolkata (then Calcutta)**.

- Founded: **15 January 1875**
- Headquarters: **Mausam Bhavan, Lodi Road, New Delhi**
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi graced the 150th Foundation Day celebrations of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on January 14, 2025, at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.**
- On this historic occasion, he launched '**Mission Mausam**,' an initiative aimed at transforming India into a 'Weather-ready and Climate-smart' nation through advanced weather surveillance technologies, high-resolution atmospheric observations, next-generation radars, satellites, and high-performance computing systems.
- The Prime Minister also unveiled a commemorative postage stamp and coin, alongside releasing the **IMD Vision-2047** document, which outlines a roadmap for weather resilience and climate change adaptation as India prepares to mark 100 years of independence in 2047.
- By 2023, IMD has replaced all **Mercury Barometers with Digital Barometers**

DID YOU KNOW?



The India Meteorological Department (IMD) became the first organization in India to have a message switching computer for supporting its global data exchange.

DID YOU KNOW?



India was the first developing country in the world to have its own geostationary satellite, INSAT, for continuous weather monitoring of this part of the globe and particularly for cyclone warning.

Shreyas Iyer Appointed Punjab Kings Captain Ahead of IPL 2025 Season



- **Shreyas Iyer**, the second-most expensive player in the player auction, has been appointed captain by **Punjab Kings** for **IPL 2025**.
- Iyer, is among **only eight captains to have won the IPL**, a feat he accomplished by leading **Kolkata Knight Riders**, whom he led from 2022 to 2024, to the title last year.
- Lucknow Super Giants picked **Rishabh Pant** for INR 27 crore to make him the **most expensive buy at an IPL auction 2024**.

DRDO's HIMKAVACH



- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has made advancements in military clothing technology.
- **HIMKAVACH** is a multi-layer clothing system developed by DRDO.
- It aims to protect military personnel in **harsh cold weather environments**.
- This innovative clothing is specifically designed for operational use in the Himalayan region, where temperatures can drop drastically.
- The system is engineered to function within a temperature range of **+20°C to -60°C**.
- Before HimKavach, the Indian Army used the **Extreme Cold Weather Clothing System (ECWCS)**, a three-layered outfit developed by DRDO's Defence **Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences**.

Venezuela's Maduro set for third presidential term



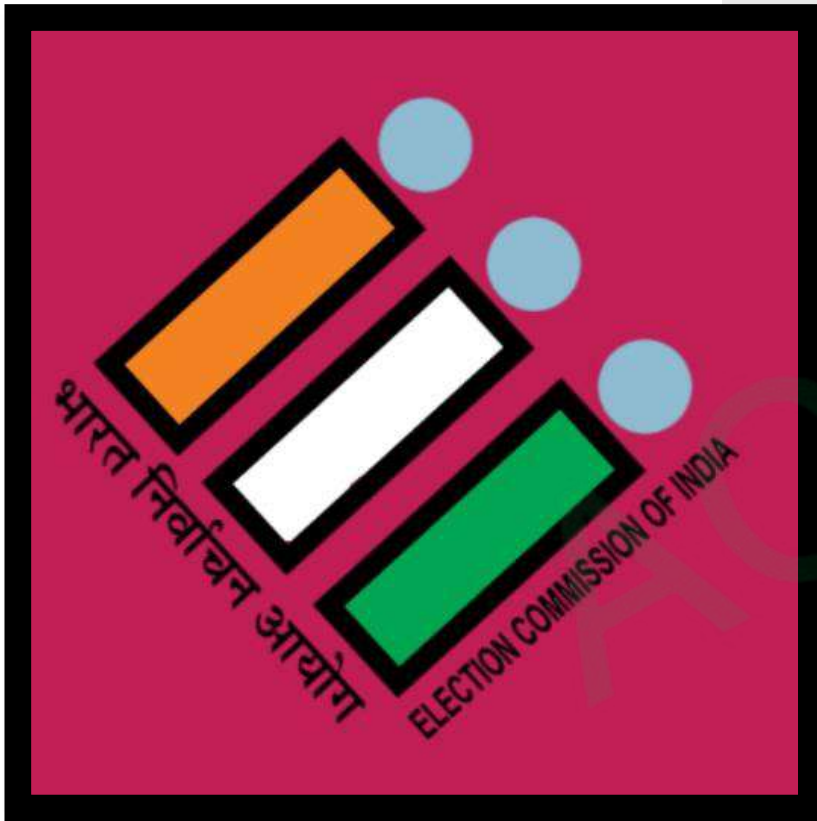
- Nicolas Maduro, the 46th President of Venezuela, was sworn in for **a third six-year term** after a disputed election
- His opponent, **Edmundo Gonzalez**, claimed voter fraud and declared himself the rightful winner of the July elections.
- Despite international pressure and sanctions, particularly from the United States, Maduro's inauguration took place amid widespread controversy and public protests.
- Maduro was sworn in for his third term on **10 January 2025**

Kappad and Chal Beaches Receive Prestigious Blue Flag Certification



- Kerala's iconic **Kappad Beach in Kozhikode and Chal Beach in Kannur** have earned the prestigious Blue Flag certification, an international recognition awarded by the **Denmark-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)**.
- This honour reflects Kerala's ongoing dedication to environmental conservation and **sustainable tourism**.
- Both beaches have implemented eco-friendly initiatives and maintain hygienic, safe environments for tourists, setting a model for **responsible tourism (RT)**.
- India has **13 Blue Flag beaches**, including Kappad and Chal, demonstrating its commitment to sustainable tourism.

New Appointment Process for India's Election Commissioners



- For the first time, the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) will move **beyond the traditional seniority-based approach**.
- **Article 324** of the Indian Constitution specifies that while the CEC and ECs will be appointed by the President, this is **subject to Parliamentary law (if such law exists)**.
- In the absence of such a law, the President has been making appointments as per the **recommendations of the Prime Minister**.
- The **Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023** has introduced new mechanisms to widen the scope of selection.

- In 2023, the Constitution Bench of the SC (in the **Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India** case) decided to change the process for Election Commission appointments in order to secure their independence.
 - In the Anoop Baranwal Case, 2023, the SC ruled that a panel of the **Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition, and CJI** would select CEC and ECs until Parliament passed a law.
- This **2023 Act** replaces the **Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991**, introducing significant changes to enhance the autonomy and functioning of the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- As per the new Act CEC and ECs will be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of a **Selection Committee**.
 - The Selection Committee will consist of the **Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister(Nominated by the PM), and Leader of Opposition/leader of the largest opposition party in Lok Sabha**.
 - Recommendations of the Selection Committee will be valid **even when there is a vacancy in this Committee**.

- A **Search Committee**, led by the Law Minister and comprising two other members not below the rank of Secretary to the Government of India, shortlists five candidates.
 - Section 8 of the Act gives the Selection Committee the power to consider names beyond the shortlisted five.
- The 2023 Act replaces the SC-mandated panel (PM, LoP, CJI) with a committee of the PM, LoP, and a Union Minister allowing the executive to dominate the selection process.
 - **If the LoP post is vacant due to the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, only the PM and a Union Minister will remain for selecting candidates, effectively bypassing both the judgment and the 2023 Act.**

- **Term and reappointment:**
 - Members of the Election Commission will hold office **for six years, or until they attain the age of 65 years**, whichever is earlier.
 - Members of the Commission **cannot be re-appointed.**
 - If an EC is appointed as a CEC, the overall period of the term may **not be more than six years.**
- **Salary and pension:**
 - The salary, allowances, and other conditions of service of the CEC and ECs will be equivalent to that of the **Cabinet Secretary.**
 - Under the 1991 Act, it was equivalent to the salary of a **Supreme Court Judge.**
- **Removal:**
 - The CEC may be removed in the same manner and on the same grounds as a **Supreme Court Judge.**
 - ECs may be removed only upon the **recommendation of the CEC.**

ICC Players of the Month for December 2024 Announced



- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has today announced the ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month for December 2024 as **India's Jasprit Bumrah and Australia's Annabel Sutherland.**
- Bumrah clinches his **second ICC Men's Player** of the Month crown
 - He also etched his name in history as the **first bowler to claim 200 Test wickets at an average below 20.**
- **Sutherland** also wins her second ICC Women's Player of the Month prize

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2025

FEBRUARY 4

Union Minister Piyush Goyal launches National Turmeric Board



- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry **Piyush Goyal** launched the National Turmeric Board on January 14, 2025, to support turmeric farmers, and promote exports.
- Headquartered in **Nizamabad, Telangana**
- The Board will focus on R&D, global promotion of India's turmeric, which accounts for **70% of global production.**
- In 2023-24, an area of 3.05 lakh hectare was under turmeric cultivation in India with a production of **10.74 lakh tonnes.**
- **Palle Ganga Reddy** appointed as its first Chairperson.
- Key Turmeric States: **Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya.**

India Unveils 'Utkash' as Second Multi-Purpose Vessel



- Infrastructure major **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** has launched the second multi-purpose vessel for the Indian Navy from its Kattupalli Shipyard near Chennai.
- The launch of the vessel, **INS Utkarsh**, comes within three months of the launch of the first **MPV INS Samarthak**.
- The multi-purpose vessels (MPVs) are highly specialised and play multiple roles, including serving as trial platforms, for the development of next generation weapons and sensors.
 - They will perform maritime surveillance, humanitarian assistance, combat sea pollution, besides taking up launch and recovery of surface and aerial assets, etc.

Hatti Tribes Celebrate Boda Tyohar



- The Hatti tribes of Himachal Pradesh's Trans-Giri region celebrate the **"Boda Tyohar" festival**
- Its also known as **"Magho ko Tyohar"**
- Boda Tyohar festival is their **biggest annual celebration**, marking the end of the Magha month with vibrant cultural practices and a strong sense of community unity
- The festivities begin at the communal courtyard known as **'Sanjha Angan'**, traditionally owned by the village head ('Siyana').

India to Host 28th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in 2026



- India will host the **28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Parliaments of Commonwealth Countries (CSPOC)** in **2026**.
- Announced by Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla**
- This significant event will focus on leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) and social media to enhance parliamentary operations, reflecting India's commitment to modernizing governance.
- India has previously hosted CSPOC conferences in **1970-71, 1986, and 2010**, demonstrating a longstanding commitment to parliamentary dialogue within the Commonwealth.

WBFJA Awards: Aparna Sen Honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award



- Eminent director **Aparna Sen** was honoured with the '**Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award**' at the annual award ceremony of West Bengal Film Journalists Association for her contributions to Indian cinema.
- '**Manik Babar Megh**' won the best Bengali film award while Chandan Sen was awarded the best actor award for his role in the film.
- **Srijit Mukherji and Debaloy Bhattacharya** were jointly awarded the Best Director award
- Actress **Rituparna Sengupta** won the best actress award for her role in "**Ayogya**".

Cabinet Nod for 8th Pay Commission Implementation



- On January 16, 2025, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and his cabinet approved the creation of the **8th Central Pay Commission (CPC)** for central government employees.
- Announced by Information and Broadcasting Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, the commission aims to revise salaries, allowances, and pensions.
- The Union Cabinet has sanctioned the establishment of the 8th Pay Commission, and the **Chairman and two members will be appointed soon**

- Pay Commissions are established every **10 years** to review compensation structures based on economic indicators like inflation.
- The first pay commission established in **January 1946**, submitted its report in May 1947 to the Interim government of India
- The current 7th Pay Commission was appointed in **February 2014** and submitted its report in **November 2015**.
- Its recommendations were implemented in **January 2016**.
- The minimum basic salary, increased from ₹7,000 to ₹18,000 by the 7th Pay Commission, may rise to ₹51,480 (approx. 186% increase).
 - The 7th Pay Commission's recommendations remain effective **until 2026**.
 - The 8th Pay Commission's recommendations will be prepared for implementation by January **1, 2026**.

India Set to Surpass Japan as World's Fourth-Largest Economy by 2026



- India is poised to become the fourth-largest economy in the world by 2026, **overtaking Japan**, according to the **PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI)**.
- The industry body forecasted Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of **6.8 per cent** for the current financial year ending March 2025 and a robust **7.7 per cent growth for FY26**, driven by strong macroeconomic fundamentals and policy reforms.
- PHDCCI highlights key reforms like raising the **income tax exemption limit to ₹10 lakh** and **reducing tax rates** for businesses to boost consumption.
- **USA, China, Germany, Japan, India** are the largest economies in the world

India-Spain Declare 2026 as 'Dual Year' for Culture, Tourism, and AI



- External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** held an interaction event with the members of the Indian diaspora during his official visit to **Spain**.
- He lauded the diaspora for building a positive image of India, expressed confidence in boosting India-Spain trade ties and announced that **India and Spain will mark 2026 as a 'dual year'** to celebrate culture, tourism and AI in both the countries.
- This initiative aims to strengthen bilateral ties and promote mutual understanding between the two nations.
- India and Spain currently share an annual trade volume of **USD 10 billion**, encompassing sectors such as railways, clean technology, drones, and space exploration.

Kanuma Panduga 2025



- Kanuma Panduga was celebrated on **January 16, 2025**.
- It is a harvest festival that **honors cattle** and is celebrated in southern India (especially in **Andhra Pradesh, Telangana**)
- It is celebrated after **Makar Sankranti**.
- It is also known as **Nagapai Pandag**.
- It is a significant day for Telugu speakers.
- The festival shares its origin with **Govardhan Puja**, honoring Lord Krishna's divine intervention when he lifted the Govardhan Hill to protect villagers and cattle from a flood.
- The day celebrates the start of the **sun's journey to the northern hemisphere**, heralding longer days and the spring season

Smriti Mandhana Smashes India's Fastest Women's ODI Century!



- **Smriti Mandhana** scored India's fastest women's ODI century in **70 balls**.
- She achieved this feat during the third **ODI against Ireland at Rajkot**.
- She surpassed **Harmanpreet Kaur's** previous mark of 87 balls against South Africa.
- She is the first Indian Woman to Score **10 ODI Tons**, Joined Australia's Tammy Beaumont in third place on the all-time list.
- **AB de Villiers** holds the record for the fastest ODI century, scoring 100 runs in 31 balls against the West Indies in 2015.

Piyush Goyal Launches PRABHAAV Factbook and Startup Challenge



- India celebrated the **9th Foundation Day of Startup India** in New Delhi, showcasing its progress as a global innovation leader.
- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry **Piyush Goyal** launched initiatives like the **PRABHAAV Factbook and Bharat Startup Challenge**, emphasizing startups' vital role in driving economic growth.
- **PRABHAAV Factbook:**
 - A comprehensive **guide to India's startup ecosystem** achievements (2016-2024).
 - Highlights regional contributions and the growth trajectory of startups.
- **Bharat Startup Challenge**
 - Features **75 challenges** across diverse sectors like renewable energy, blockchain, agritech, and semiconductors.

Cabinet approves setting up of third launchpad in Sriharikota



- The Union Cabinet on approved setting up of a third launchpad at ISRO's Satish **Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh** at a cost of ₹3,985 crore
- It will support **Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV) missions** and enhance ISRO's capacity to launch advanced satellites and spacecraft.
- In 2024, PM laid the foundation stone for ISRO's **second rocket launchport** at **Kulasekarapattinam in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi district.**
- The first one being the **Dr Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.**
- 1st Launchpad was realized 30 years ago for **PSLV** and continues to provide launch support for PSLV & SSLV.
- 2nd LP was established primarily for **GSLV & LVM3** and also functions as standby for PSLV

Govt Launches App to Boost Battlefield Tourism



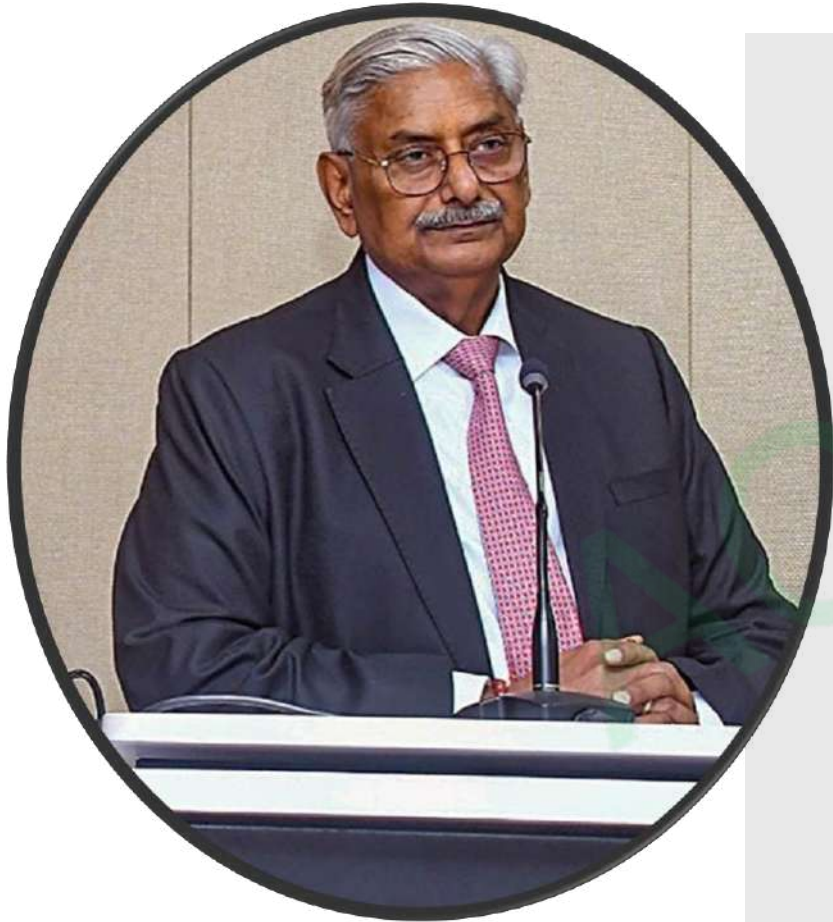
- Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** launched **TheBharat Ranbhoomi Darshan app** aiming to boost battlefield tourism in the country during the **77th Army Day celebrations**, in **Pune, Maharashtra** on **January 15, 2025**.
- Developed by the **Ministries of Defence, Tourism, and the Indian Army**.
- The app allows civilians to visit key battlefield locations, including those of the **1962, 1971, and 1999 wars**, and significant conflict zones like **Siachen base camp and Galwan valley**.

China launches Pakistan's satellite into space



- China launched Pakistan's satellite, **PRSC-EO1**, into space.
- The satellite was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China.
- **First home-made observation** satellite of Pakistan
- The launch was part of a mission that also carried two other satellites
- To enhance Pakistan's capabilities in monitoring and managing natural resources, disaster response, urban planning, and agricultural development.
- It was deployed into its planned orbit by a **Long March-2D carrier rocket**

Justice Arun Mishra: New Ombudsman of BCCI



- Justice **Arun Mishra**, a former Supreme Court judge, has been appointed as the **Ombudsman and Ethics Officer of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)**.
- He served in the apex court from July 7, 2014, to September 2, 2020 before being appointed as the chairperson of the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** on June 2, 2021, a position he held until June 1, 2024.
- This role involves **addressing ethical issues and disputes in Indian cricket**.

Djokovic Breaks Federer's Record for Grand Slam Match Count



- **Novak Djokovic** etched another remarkable milestone in tennis history by surpassing **Roger Federer's record** for the most Grand Slam matches played.
- The Serbian superstar played his **430th Grand Slam match** during his second-round victory against qualifier Jaime Faria at the Australian Open
- Federer, who retired in 2022, played 429 Grand Slam matches
- Djokovic, who also holds the record for the most Grand Slam match wins with **379**
- Holds the record for **most Grand Slam singles titles (24)**.
- **Most weeks ranked No. 1 in the ATP rankings.**
- Played in **37 Grand Slam finals** (6 more than Federer's previous record).

Musi River Historic Buildings on 2025 World Monuments Watch



- The '**Musi River Historic Buildings**' in Hyderabad have been put on the **2025 World Monuments Watch**, in an announcement made by the New York-based organisation
- Gujarat's '**Bhuj Historic Water Systems**' is the other site in India named by the WMF on its list of 25-sites facing risk due to the water crisis and climate change.
- **2025 World Monuments Fund (WMF)** sites represent 29 countries across five continents.
- These sites face risks from climate change and water crises, highlighting the need for advocacy and preservation.

GI Tag for Virgin Coconut Oil of Andaman



- In the recent **118th episode of Mann Ki Baat**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** for as many as **7 products** from the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
- The products are **Hodi (an outrigger canoe), Nicobari Mat (Chatrai-hileuoi), Nicobari Hut (Chanvi Pati – Nyi hupul), Padauk Wood Craft, Andaman and Nicobar Coconut, Nicobari Tavi-i-Ngaich (Virgin Coconut Oil), and Andaman Karen Musley Rice**.
- Women involved in the production of Virgin Coconut Oil are being organized into **self-help groups**.
- These groups will help women become financially independent and develop leadership roles in the production process.



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CURRENT AFFAIRS

2025

FEBRUARY 5

Uttarakhand-Iceland Partnership for Geothermal Energy



- In a major move towards **carbon neutrality by 2070**, the Uttarakhand government has **partnered with Iceland**, a global leader in geothermal energy, to tap into the state's geothermal potential.
- The Uttarakhand government has signed a **MoU with Iceland's Verkis Consulting Engineers** for the 'Exploration and Development of Geothermal Energy in Uttarakhand'
- Received approvals from **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, and Ministry of External Affairs.**
- Uttarakhand identified **40 geothermal sites across the state.**

Gyanendra Pratap Singh Appointed as CRPF Director General



- **Gyanendra Pratap Singh**, a 1991 batch IPS officer and currently Director General (DGP) of Assam Police, has been appointed as the new **DG of Central Reserve Police Force**.
- His tenure will last until **November 30, 2027**
- CRPF special **DG Vitul Kumar** has been officiating as CRPF chief since the superannuation of incumbent Anish Dayal Singh on Dec 31, 2024.
- The CRPF is India's largest paramilitary force, with nearly 300,000 personnel
- CRPF Headquarters: **New Delhi, India**

Flamingo Festival 2025



- The **Flamingo Festival 2025**, a significant event in **Andhra Pradesh**, concluded on January 20, 2025, at **Pulicat Lake and Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary**
- It is a **three days festival** that is organized during the winter season when thousands of migratory birds visit the region.
- **Since its beginning in 2001**, the festival has become one of India's key eco-tourism events, offering a blend of nature, culture, and conservation.
- The **Greater Flamingo** stands as a symbol of ecological balance and natural beauty.
- Events like the Flamingo Festival 2025 underscore the importance of protecting our natural heritage for future generations.

Sanjiv Ranjan Appointed as Secretary General of Indian Ocean Rim

Association



- **Sanjiv Ranjan**, a senior Indian diplomat, has been appointed as the new Secretary General of the **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**.
 - He previously served as **Ambassador to Argentina (2016-2019), Colombia (2019-2022)**.
- **IORA** is a regional organization comprising 23 member states, including India, Australia, Indonesia, and South Africa.
 - The association aims to promote economic cooperation, sustainable development, and regional security among Indian Ocean bordering countries

U.S. Withdrawal From World Health Organization (WHO)



- The **United States** has recently announced its withdrawal from several key international organizations, including the **UNHRC, the WHO, and other international forums.**
- This decision marks the **second attempt by Trump to exit** the global health body, citing **dissatisfaction with WHO's management during the COVID-19 pandemic**, perceived political biases, and disproportionate financial burdens placed on the U.S.
 - Trump had initially announced a withdrawal during his first term in **2020.**
 - However, this was reversed by then-President Joe Biden in **2021.**
- US cited the UNHRC's '**chronic bias against Israel**' and its failure to address genuine human rights concerns.

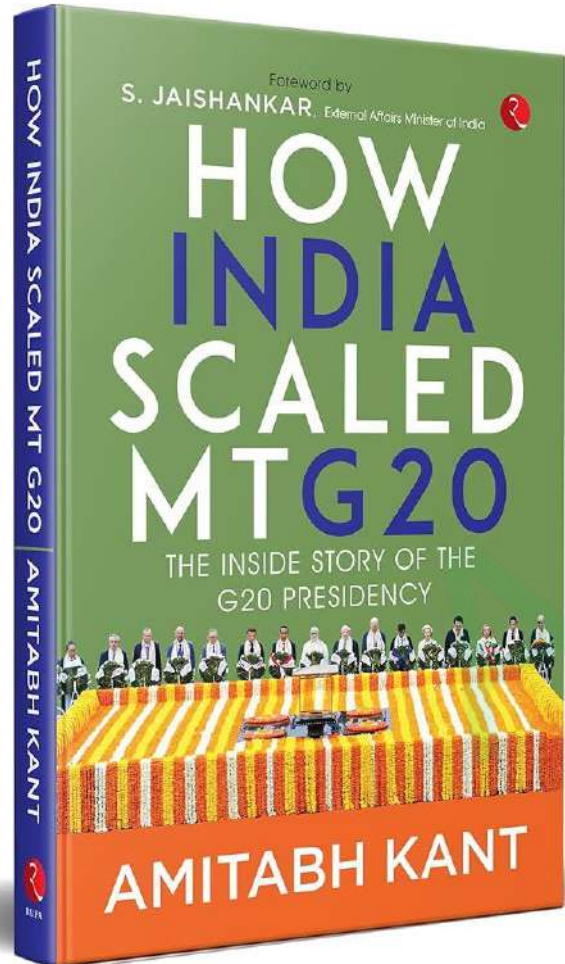
- The US has reviewed its involvement in other international organizations, such as **UNESCO and the Paris Climate Accord**, citing 'wild disparities' in financial contributions among member countries.
 - Earlier, US left UNESCO in 2017, citing an alleged anti-Israel bias within the organization.
 - It echoed a similar withdrawal in 1984 under President Ronald Reagan, which was reversed in 2003.
- The US withdrew from the **Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)** in 2017, citing the need to protect American jobs and industries.
- The WHO was established on **April 7, 1948. (World Health Day)**
- On January 20, 2025, President Donald Trump initiated the **United States' second withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement**, a move that has significant implications for both domestic and international climate policies
 - This the second time Trump is ordering the US to abandon the Paris agreement, he did so in a **2017**
 - Following President Biden's executive order, the United States officially rejoined the landmark Paris Agreement in **2021**

Yala Glacier in Nepal Set to Vanish by 2040s Due to Climate Change



- **Yala Glacier** in Nepal has **retreated by 680 meters (36%)** between 1974 and 2021 and is projected to vanish by the **2040s** due to accelerated **climate change**.
- It is the only glacier in entire Himalayas to be included in the **Global Glacier Casualty List (GGCL)** which highlights accelerating impact of climate change on Himalayan glaciers/cryosphere.
 - The cryosphere is the frozen part of the Earth, including snow, ice, and frozen ground.
- **UN International Year of Glaciers' Preservation (2025).**

"How India Scaled Mt G20" book by Amitabh Kant



- **Amitabh Kant**, India's G20 Sherpa, has unveiled the behind-the-scenes journey of India's G20 Presidency in his book "*How India Scaled Mt G20: The Inside Story of the G20 Presidency*"
 - The book details the challenges, negotiations, and triumphs during the G20 Summit hosted in New Delhi in September 2023.
 - Finalizing the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration (NDLD) after 300 hours of negotiations and 250 bilateral meetings.
- Amitabh Kant is presently **India's G20 Sherpa and the former chief executive officer of NITI Aayog**
 - Japan's The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star (2023)

Centre Hikes MSP on Jute, Promises 66.8% Returns for farmers



- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of Raw Jute for Marketing season 2025-26.
- The Centre has increased the **minimum support price (MSP) for raw jute by Rs 315**, setting it at **Rs 5,650 per quintal** for the 2025-26 marketing season.
- This move, approved by the Union Cabinet, is expected to provide farmers a **return of 66.8 per cent** over the all-India weighted average cost of production.
- Since 2014-15, the MSP for raw jute has increased by **2.35 times**.
- 82% of Jute farmers belong to West Bengal while rest Assam and Bihar have 9% each of jute production share.
- In addition to the jute MSP increase, the Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the **National Health Mission (NHM) for an additional five years**.

India to Host FIDE Chess World Cup 2025



- The Fide Chess World Cup will be hosted in New Delhi from **October 31 to November 27**, marking a significant chess event returning to India.
- India previously hosted a Fide World Cup over two decades ago in **2002**.
- 5 world champion **Viswanathan Anand** won that edition held in Hyderabad in 2002.
- Before the men's event in India, FIDE will host the Women's World Cup separately, scheduled to take place from **July 5 to July 19 in Batumi, Georgia**.
- Its first major international chess tournament hosted by India since the **2022 Chennai Chess Olympiad**.
- FIDE stands for the **Federation Internationale des Echecs**, also known as the **World Chess Federation**

Parakram Diwas 2025



- The grand celebration of Parakram Diwas 2025 began on **23rd January 2025** at Barabati Fort in **Cuttack, Odisha** marking the **128th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**.
- The event, which was organised at his birthplace, also commemorated Odisha's connection with Netaji, and the state's impact in developing Netaji's early sensibilities.
- Odisha Chief Minister **Shri Mohan Charan Majhi** will inaugurate the event
- **21st January** marks the **80th death anniversary of Rash Behari Bose**, a founding leader of the Indian National Army with whom Subhas Chandra Bose was associated.

- Netaji was born on **January 23, 1897**, in **Cuttack, Odisha**.
- From the year 2021, the Government of India decided to celebrate his birth anniversary as '**Parakram Diwas**'.
- The first Parakram Diwas was celebrated in the year **2021** on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji.
- He took an active part in the Indian National Congress and became its President in **1938 and 1939**.
- In 1939, he separated from the Congress and founded an organization called "**Forward Block**".
- With the cooperation of Japan and Germany, he formed the "**Azad Hind Fauj**" and gave the slogan "**Delhi Chalo**".
- His famous slogan was, "**Give Me Blood, and I Promise You Freedom**", which became a source of inspiration in the freedom struggle.
- The slogan "**Jai Hind**" is also related to him, which became the national slogan of India.
- On **18 August 1945** he died in a plane crash.

- The annual **Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar** has been instituted in **2018** to recognize and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organisations in India in the field of disaster management.
 - The award is announced every year on **23rd January**.
 - It carries a cash prize of **Rs 51 lakh** and a certificate in case of an **institution** and **Rs 5 lakh** and a certificate in case of an **individual**.
 - The **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)** has been awarded the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2025 in the Institutional Category for its outstanding work in disaster management.

Discovery of a Rare Umamaheshwara Sculpture in Karnataka



- A rare 17th-century **Umamaheshwara metal sculpture**, possibly in a 12th-century style, was found in **Taggunje, Ajri village, Kundapura taluk, Udupi district, Karnataka**, representing a fusion of Shaiva-Shaktha and Naga cult traditions
- The idol is crafted from **five metals**
- Lord Shiva is depicted seated with Parvati on his lap, Ganesha on the right, Shanmukha on the left, and Nandi below.

Neutral Expert's Decision on Indus Waters Treaty: A Win for India



- India secures a diplomatic win as the **Neutral Expert** appointed under the **Indus Waters Treaty** deems **himself competent** to resolve disputes over two hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir.
- In 2016, **Pakistan** proposed adjudication by **Court of Arbitration**, while **India** prefers adjudication by the **Neutral Expert**.
- **Michel Lino**, the World Bank-appointed Neutral Expert (NE), declared he is “competent” to decide differences on hydroelectric projects under the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), 1960.
 - This supports India’s stance to **exclude the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)**, reinforcing its diplomatic and legal efforts to assert rights over the Indus waters.

- IWT is regarded as one of the most successful examples of conflict resolution between the two nations.
- The IWT was signed on **September 19, 1960**, by Indian Prime Minister **Jawaharlal Nehru** and Pakistani President **Ayub Khan**, with the aim of regulating the use of water from the Indus River and its tributaries between India and Pakistan after extensive negotiations facilitated by the World Bank.
- It allocates water from the Indus River and its tributaries, giving **Pakistan control over approximately 70%** of the water while **India retains about 30%**
- The treaty was previously regarded as a successful model for international water-sharing agreements, with India winning disputes regarding projects like the **Baglihar Dam (2007)** and addressing concerns over Pakistan's **Neelum project (2013)**
- The dispute between India and Pakistan centers on the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects
 - **Kishenganga Project:** On the Kishenganga River, a tributary of Jhelum.
 - **Ratle Project:** On the Chenab River.

Kolkata's 'Boi Mela', India's Oldest Book Fair



- The Kolkata Book Fair, known as "**Boi Mela**," is India's oldest book fair, originating in **1976** and inspired by the **Frankfurt Book Fair**, now in its **48th** edition
- India's history with book fairs dates back to **1918**, when the first-ever book exhibition was held at College Street, Calcutta (now Kolkata).
- This historic event was organized by the **National Council of Education (NCE)** as part of its mission to promote the Swadeshi Movement.
- After years of planning, the first modern Kolkata Book Fair was organized in 1975
- It was inaugurated on March 5, 1976,

India Ranks 4th in Global Firepower Index 2025



- In the **Global Firepower Index 2025**, India is ranked **4th** in overall military strength, following the **United States, Russia, and China**
- The Global Firepower Index ranks 145 countries based on their conventional military strength across land, sea, and air.
- In the 2025 edition of the Global Firepower Index, India maintains its position at number four, with a **score of 0.1184**
- Meanwhile, Pakistan has dropped from **9th place in 2024 to 12th** in the latest rankings.

Operation 'Sard Hawa'



- **Operation Sard Hawa** is a winter exercise by the Border Security Force (BSF) to **prevent infiltration along the India-Pakistan border**.
- The operation is carried out annually to prevent unwanted incidents during low temperatures and dense fog
- During this time, vigilance will be increased on the border by BSF jawans and officers.
- '**Operation Garam Hawa**'- in the summer months to ensure round-the-clock security along the border.

Micheál Martin Reappointed as Irish PM



- Ireland's **Micheál Martin** was elected prime minister for the second time by a coalition of the country's two large centre-right parties
- This marks his second term, having previously served from **2020 to 2022.**
- The new government is a continuation of the partnership between **Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael**, Ireland's two dominant center-right parties since 1937.
- This coalition aims to address pressing national issues through a unified approach.

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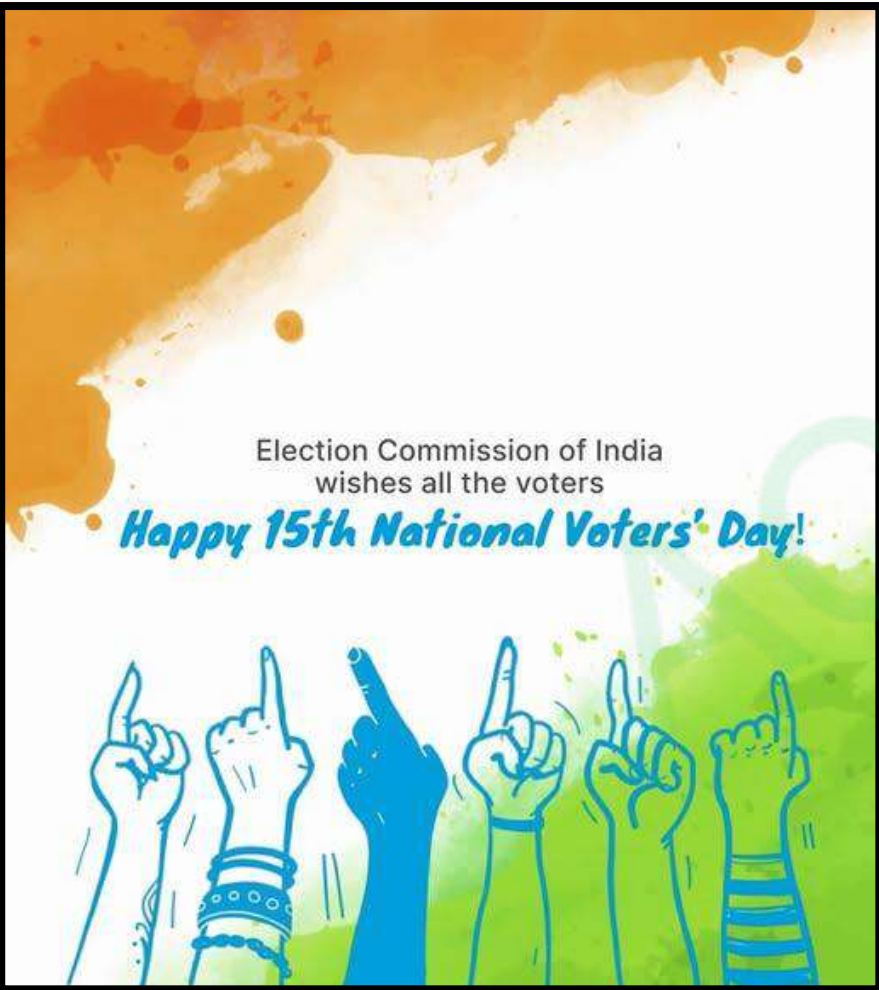
FEBRUARY 6

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh flags-off 'SANJAY – The Battlefield Surveillance System'



- **Rajnath Singh** flagged off '**SANJAY – The Battlefield Surveillance System (BSS)**' from New Delhi.
- This indigenously developed system marks a major milestone in **India's defense technology**, strengthening the surveillance capabilities of the Indian Army.
- SANJAY is designed to enhance **battlefield transparency**, **improve situational awareness**, and **optimize intelligence collection**, thus transforming the battlefield in the era of modern warfare.
- The primary function of SANJAY is to **collect, validate, and fuse battlefield data** into a centralized system.
- Using cutting-edge sensors and advanced analytics, the system will continuously monitor the vast land borders of India, detect any potential intrusions, and provide a clear assessment of the situation with unparalleled accuracy.

National Voters' Day 2025



- The 15th National Voters' Day (NVD) on **25th January 2025**, marks **75 years** of the Election Commission of India (ECI)
- Celebrated annually on 25th January since **2011** to commemorate the establishment of the ECI on **25th January 1950**, a day before India became a Republic.
- Aims to promote voter awareness, inspire participation, and honor new voters.
- Theme for 2025: “**Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure**”
- **National Tourism Day** is also celebrated annually on January 25
 - The theme for this year's National Tourism Day is “**Tourism for Inclusive Growth**”

Arshdeep Singh Becomes India's Leading Wicket-Taker in T20Is



- **Arshdeep Singh** surpassed **Yuzvendra Chahal** to become India's highest wicket-taker in T20Is with **97 wickets in 61 matches**, achieving the feat during the first T20I against England on January 22, 2025. (Now **99 Wickets**)
- Arshdeep, however, is still significantly far from the highest wicket-taker in T20Is, New Zealand's **Tim Southee**, who has an incredible 164 wickets to his name in 126 matches.
- **Rashid Khan (Afghanistan, 161), Shakib Al Hasan (Bangladesh, 149), Ish Sodhi (New Zealand, 138), and Mustafizur Rahman (Bangladesh, 132)** make the top-5 among T20I wicket-takers.

10 Years of Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana



- The **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY)** was launched on **January 22, 2015**, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as part of the "**Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao**" campaign, which translates to "**Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child**".
- The scheme aims to empower girl children through **financial security and social empowerment**, encouraging families to invest in their daughters' futures.
- As a testament to its impact, over **4.1 crore Sukanya Samriddhi accounts** have been opened as of November 2024
- The guardian can open the account immediately after the birth of the girl child till she attains the age of **10 years**.
 - The account is managed by the guardian until the girl child reaches the age of **eighteen**

- This scheme allows parents to open a Sukanya Samriddhi account for girls at any post office or designated commercial bank branch, starting with a **minimum initial deposit of ₹250**, and subsequent deposits can be made in **multiples of ₹50**, provided that **at least ₹250 is deposited in a financial year**.
 - The total annual deposit limit is capped at **₹1,50,000**; any excess amount will not earn interest and will be returned.
 - Deposits can be made for a period of **up to fifteen years from the account opening date**.
- The account matures upon the completion of **twenty-one years** of the account holder from its opening date.
 - However, early closure is permitted under specific circumstances, particularly if the account holder intends to marry before reaching maturity.



The poster features a yellow background with a subtle pattern. At the top, there are four logos: a circular logo with a girl's face, the Government of India emblem, the India Post logo, and the PIB logo. The main title is in bold red and black text. Below it, a list of four bullet points describes the scheme's features. On the right side, there is a photograph of a man carrying a young girl on his shoulders, both looking upwards with joy.

Start Saving for a Bright Future of Girls
Invest in Dreams with Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana

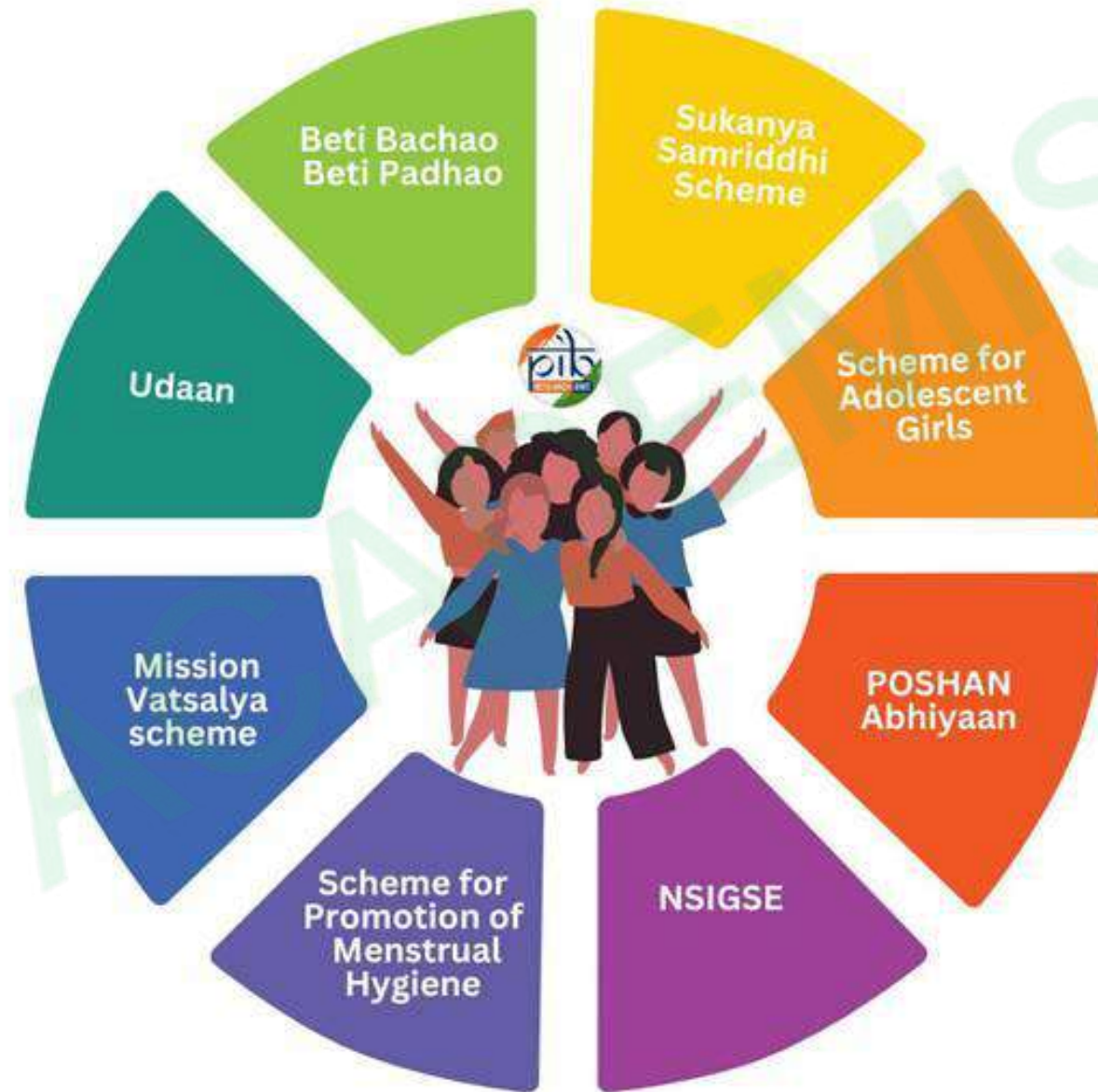
- For girls up to **10 years of age**
- Deposit of minimum ₹ **250**; maximum ₹ **1.5 lakh** per financial year
- Enjoy an **interest rate of 8.2%**
- Easily transfer the account across India between **Post Offices/ Banks**



National Girl Child Day 2025



- **January 24th** is celebrated as the **National Girl Child Day in India**, to create public awareness about inequities that girls face in society.
- Initiated in **2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development**
- National Girl Child Day 2025 is being celebrated on January 24th, marking its 17th edition since its inception in 2008
- The theme for National Girl Child Day 2025 was "**Empowering Girls for a Bright Future**"
- **'Samman Sanjeevani'** App Unveiled on National Girl Child Day
- Every year, the world comes together to celebrate the **International Day of Education on January 24**
 - This year, the seventh International Day of Education is celebrated with the theme: **'AI and Education: Preserving Human Agency in a World of Automation'**



Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme was launched on 22nd January 2015 with an aim to **address declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR)** and related issues of empowerment of girls and women over a life cycle continuum.



UDAAN



Udaan is an innovative project launched in 2014 by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) under the guidance of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), aimed at **addressing the low enrollment of girl students** in prestigious engineering institutions and bridging the gap between school education and engineering entrance examinations.

Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG)

This scheme aims at providing nutritional support to out of school girls in the age group of 11-14 years for **improving their health and nutritional** status under the nutrition component on one hand and motivates them to go back to formal schooling, provides life skill training, accessing public services etc. under non-nutrition component on the other hand.



National Scheme of Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education

Launched in May 2008, this scheme aims to **enhance educational opportunities for girls**, particularly those from Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities. Now integrated into the National Scholarship Portal (NSP), the scheme focuses on **promoting enrolment and minimizing dropout rates** among these girls, ensuring they remain in school until at least 18 years of age.

Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene among Adolescent Girls in Rural India

This scheme focuses on **enhancing menstrual hygiene practices** for girls aged 10-19 in rural areas, as part of a broader approach to Adolescent Reproductive Sexual Health since 2011.



Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme

The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2015, as a part of the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign. The scheme encourages parents to build a fund for the future education and marriage expenses for their female child.

Child Protection Services Scheme

Under this scheme institutional care is provided through Child Care Institutes (CCIs), as a **rehabilitative measure for supporting the children in difficult circumstances**. Under the non-institutional care component of the scheme, support is extended for adoption, foster care and sponsorship. Further CPS also provides for “After care” services after the age of 18 years to help sustain them during the transition from institutional to independent life.

POSHAN Abhiyaan



POSHAN Abhiyaan, launched on 8th March, 2018 aims to **address malnutrition** issues across the nation through components like ICT Application, Convergence, Community Mobilization, Behavioural Change & Jan Andolan, Capacity Building, Incentives and Awards, and Innovations.

NITI Aayog Unveils Fiscal Health Index 2025 in New Delhi



- The Hon'ble Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission, **Dr. Arvind Panagariya**, launched the inaugural issue of NITI Aayog's report titled "**Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025**" on 24th January 2025 in New Delhi
- **Suman Bery**, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog; **Dr. Arvind Virmani**, Hon. Member, NITI Aayog; **Shri BVR Subrahmanyam**, CEO, NITI Aayog; were presented.
- With a cumulative score of 67.8, **Odisha tops the ranking** in fiscal health among 18 major States, followed by **Chhattisgarh and Goa** with scores of 55.2 and 53.6, respectively.
- **Punjab and Kerala** struggle with **Debt Sustainability and Quality of Expenditure**, while **Andhra Pradesh** faces high **Fiscal Deficits**.

- **Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Goa, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh** allocate **27% to Capital Expenditure**, enhancing long-term investments.
- The report provides a comprehensive assessment of the fiscal health of 18 major States, based on five key sub-indices:
 1. Quality of Expenditure
 2. Revenue Mobilisation
 3. Fiscal Prudence
 4. Debt Index
 5. Debt Sustainability, along with insights into state-specific challenges and areas for improvement.

Trump Administration Officially Changes Name of Gulf of Mexico to Gulf of America



- The Trump administration's Interior Department had officially changed the name of the ~~Gulf of Mexico~~ to the **Gulf of America**
- Another prominent change was the renaming of ~~Denali~~, Alaska's towering peak, back to its former name, **Mount McKinley**
- This was as part of a series of executive actions aimed at fulfilling campaign promises.
- The decision to rename the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America is symbolic of Trump's approach to **reassert U.S. authority over territories and resources**.
- These actions reflect the administration's focus on reaffirming the nation's historical heritage and honoring the legacy of significant figures and places.

- The Gulf of Mexico, a body of **water bordered by Mexico, the United States, and Cuba**, has long been recognized globally.
- The name change was part of Trump's broader agenda to celebrate **American identity and reject foreign influences in U.S. affairs**.
- Mexico, which shares a significant portion of the Gulf's coastline, has expressed concerns over the name change.
 - The country has emphasized that the Gulf of Mexico name is historically recognized in international maritime navigation.
 - This name has been in use for centuries, and any attempt to alter it could cause confusion in global communication and trade, especially given the Gulf's significance as a key maritime route.
- The renaming of Denali to Mount McKinley was an effort to celebrate the legacy of **William McKinley**, the 25th president of the United States, who served from 1897 to 1901.

Michael Clarke Inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame



- Former Australian cricket captain **Michael Clarke** has been inducted into the prestigious Australian Cricket Hall of Fame
- He is the **64th cricketer** to receive this remarkable honor
- The announcement, which has been widely celebrated, was made at the iconic **Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG)**

Madison Keys Wins Australian Open 2025 Women's Champion



- US tennis player **Madison Keys** captured the first Grand Slam title of her career with a stunning win over two-time champion **Aryna Sabalenka** at the Australian Open in Melbourne on **25 January**
- Playing in her first Grand Slam final since the **2017 US Open**, Keys denied Sabalenka a **third consecutive Australian Open title**.
- She was the first player to win the Australian Open after defeating both the **world No. 1** and **world No. 2** since **Serena Williams** in **2005**
- Men's singles: **Italy's Jannik Sinner**

ISRO Set To Launch Its 100th Satellite On January 29



- ISRO launched a satellite from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on **January 29**
- It is also the **100th overall launch** of an ISRO rocket since **SLV-3 E1 in 1979**
- Launched **NVS-02** satellite using the **GSLV-F15**
- NVS-02 is the 2nd satellite in the series of 2nd generation satellites of the **Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)**.
- **NVS-01**, launched in May 2023, was the first second-gen NavIC satellite and carried India's first indigenous atomic clock.
- The GSLV-F15 is the 17th GSLV flight, and **11th with an Indigenous Cryogenic stage**.
- 100 launches have placed **548 satellites** into orbit, including 433 foreign satellites.

Indore, Udaipur Join Global Wetland Cities Network



- **Indore and Udaipur** have become the **first two Indian cities** to join the **global list of accredited wetland cities** under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- **Indore:** Sirpur Lake (Ramsar Site) recognised for water bird congregation and is being developed as a bird sanctuary.
- **Udaipur:** Surrounded by five major wetlands, namely, Pichola, Fateh Sagar, Rang Sagar, Swaroop Sagar, and Doodh Talai.
- Both cities were nominated by the **Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**.
- **As of February 2025, there are 89 Ramsar sites in India.**

Jitender Pal Singh Appointed as India's New Ambassador to Israel



- **Jitender Pal Singh** presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the State of Israel**.
- He will replace **Sanjeev Singla** as the Indian Ambassador to Israel. Singla held the post from 2019-2024.
- Jitender Pal Singh is currently serving as Joint Secretary, in charge of **Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran**.
- He is also joint secretary in **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's office**.

Indian Grandmaster Iniyan Wins Malaysian Title



- Indian Grandmaster **Iniyan Panneerselvam** clinched the **9th Johor International Open chess tournament** title in Malaysia
- Won the **Chennai Open** earlier in January 2025, further cementing his form.

Bumrah Crowned ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year



- The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the ICC Awards 2024
- **Bumrah** has won the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year.
- Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year - **Amelia Kerr (NZ)**
- ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year: **Arshdeep Singh (IND)**
- ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year: **Amelia Kerr (NZL)**
- ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year - **Azmatullah Omarzai (AFG)**
- ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year - **Smriti Mandhana (IND)**
- ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year - **Jasprit Bumrah (IND)**
- ICC Emerging Men's Cricketer of the Year - **Kamindu Mendis (SRI)**
- ICC Emerging Women's Cricketer of the Year - **Annerie Dercksen (RSA)**

UAE President Declares 2025 the 'Year of Community'



- UAE President **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** has declared **2025 the Year of the Community** under the slogan '**Hand in Hand**'
- It aims to strengthen family and community bonds while preserving cultural heritage and inspire everyone to contribute to community service and shared responsibility.

India and Indonesia Sign Five MoUs to Strengthen Bilateral Ties



- **President Prabowo Subianto** of Indonesia successfully concluded his four-day official visit to India from **23-26 January 2025**
- He was the Chief Guest at the **76th Republic Day ceremony**
- During his visit to India, he held high-level talks with the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during which **five memorandum of understanding (MoU)** were signed between the two countries.
- Indonesia is the largest trade partner of India in the **ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)** region.
- India is the second largest buyer of coal and **crude palm oil** from **Indonesia**.

- These MoUs are as follows:
 1. Cooperation in **Health**.
 2. Renewal of the agreement between the Indian Coast Guard and the Indonesian Coast Guard on **Maritime Safety and Security**.
 3. Cooperation in **Traditional Medicine Quality Assurance** between Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homeopathy and Indonesian Food and Drug Authority.
 4. Cooperation in the Fields of **Digital Development**.
 5. **Cultural Exchange Program** between the two countries for the 2025-28 period.

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2025

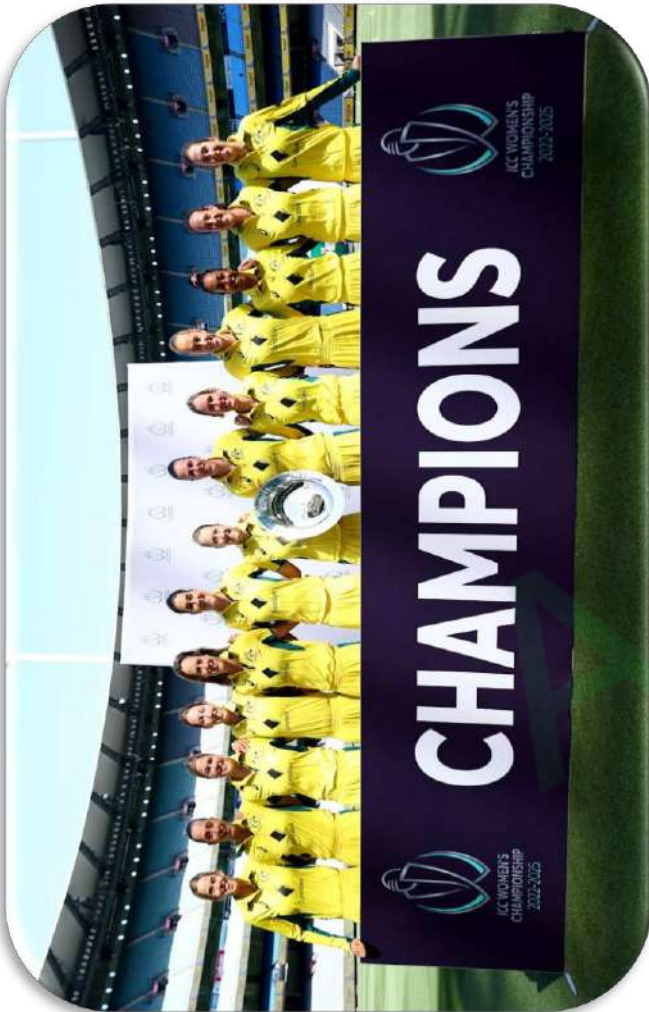
FEBRUARY 7

Odisha Warriors Win First Women's Hockey India League Title



- **Odisha Warriors** defeated **Soorma Hockey Club** in the final of the Women's Hockey India League 2024-25
- The final held at the **Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Astro Turf Hockey Stadium in Ranchi**
- Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament: **Savita Punia** (Soorma Hockey Club)
- Player of the Tournament: **Jyoti** (Soorma Hockey Club)
- The men's Hockey India League 2024-25 held at the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela on February 1.
- Men's HIL Title: **Rarh Bengal Tigers**

Australia Clinches ICC Women's Championship Trophy



- **Australia** secured the championship for the third consecutive time.
- Runners-up: **India**
- Australia remain the only team to have won the ICC Women's Championship, having also claimed titles in the **2014–16 and 2017–20 cycles**.
- The ICC Women's Championship (IWC) is an international cricket tournament used to determine qualification for the **Women's Cricket World Cup**
- The **top five teams**, along with the hosts India, qualified directly for the World Cup
- The **2025 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup** is scheduled to be hosted in **India**.
- This will be the fourth time that India are going to host the tournament after the **1978, 1997 and 2013 edition**.

Best Marching Contingents and Tableaux of Republic Day Parade 2025

Announced



- India celebrated its **76th Republic Day**, with the theme '**Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas**'
- Indonesian President **Prabowo Subianto** was the chief guest.
- The results for the best marching contingents and tableaux of the Republic Day Parade 2025 were announced by the **ministry of defence**
- **Uttar Pradesh's tableau**, showcasing the ongoing **Mahakumbh** at the 76th Republic Day celebrations, was adjudged the best tableau
- **Tripura's tableau** on "Eternal Reverence: The Worship of 14 Deities in Tripura - Kharchi Puja" was **second**

- For the first time, a Tri-Services Tableau was featured, underlining the synergy between the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- The **Jammu & Kashmir Rifles** were adjudged the best marching contingent among the services, while the **Delhi Police Marching Contingent** won in the CAPF/auxiliary forces category.
- Best Tableau from Central Ministries/Departments: **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh)**
- In addition, an online poll was conducted on the MyGov portal for the citizens to vote for their favourite tableau and Marching Contingents as '**Popular Choice Category**:
 - Best Marching Contingent among Services - **Signals Contingent**
 - Best Marching Contingent among CAPFs/other auxiliary Forces - **CRPF Marching Contingent**
 - States/UTs
 - 1st - **Gujarat** (Swarnim Bharat: Virasat Aur Vikas)
 - 2nd – **Uttar Pradesh** (Mahakumbh 2025 - Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas)
 - Best tableau from Central Ministries/Departments
 - **Ministry of Women & Child Development**

Geoff Allardice steps down as ICC CEO



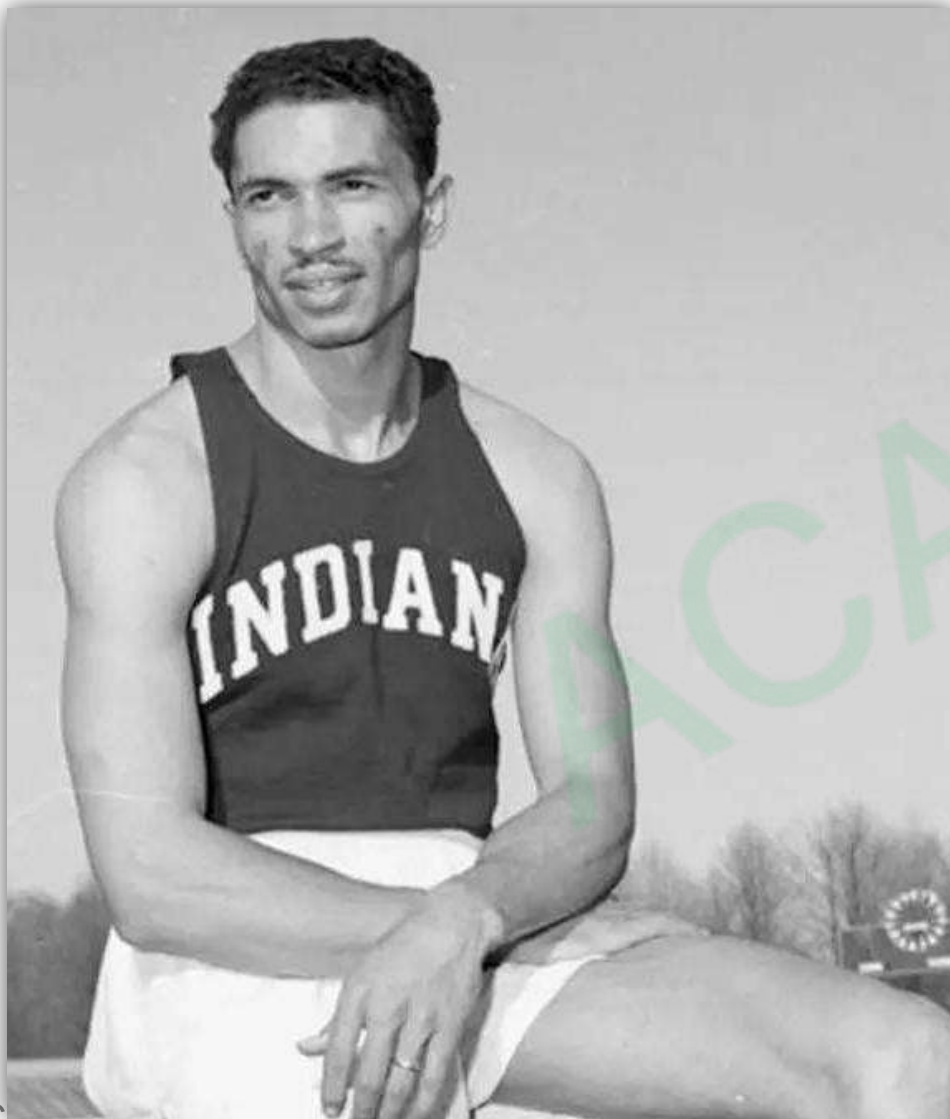
- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has announced that **Geoff Allardice** will step down as the global governing body's chief executive.
- Allardice held the role for four years but said in a statement that he will now “**pursue new challenges**”.
- He took over in 2020 after his predecessor, **Manu Sawhney**, was suspended, and was appointed full time in November 2021
- His failure to present a "clear picture" of host Pakistan's lack of preparedness is one of the multiple reasons behind the move.

Steve Smith Joins Elite 10,000-Run Club in Test Cricket



- **Steve Smith** became the 15th player and the fourth Australian to join the elite 10,000-run club in Test cricket, reaching the milestone during the first Test against Sri Lanka in Galle.
- Smith is now the fourth Australian to achieve this feat, following **Allan Border, Steve Waugh, and Ricky Ponting**
- **Sachin Tendulkar** leads the club with 15,921 runs, followed by Ricky Ponting (13,378) and Jacques Kallis (13,289)
- Smith finally got there in his **115th Test match**, making him the joint second-fastest to reach the milestone, after **Brian Lara**, who achieved it in just 111 Tests, and level with Kumar Sangakkara (115).

Greg Bell, oldest living Olympic gold medallist in athletics dies



- **American long jump** great **Greg Bell**, who had been the oldest living Olympic gold medallist in athletics, has died at the age of 94.
- He won the long jump gold medal at the **1956 Melbourne Olympics**
- Inducted into the **Indiana University Hall of Fame** and **U.S. National Track and Field Hall of Fame** in 1988.

Article 224A: Appointing Retired Judges as Ad Hoc Judges in High Courts

- The **Supreme Court (SC)** suggested temporarily appointing retired judges on an **ad hoc (as required)** basis to address the growing backlog of pending criminal cases before several High Courts.
- **Article 224A** of the Indian Constitution allows the Chief Justice of a High Court to request retired judges to act as **ad hoc judges**, with the President's prior consent.
- The SC suggested revising its 2021 ruling limiting ad hoc judge appointments to specific cases.
- As on January 25, 2025, there are 1.82 million criminal cases and over 44,000 civil cases pending before the high courts, according to data from the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).



- The Supreme Court suggested modifying the 2021 decision of Through it's **General Secretary SN Shukla IAS (retd.) v. Union of India** which provided that ad hoc judges can be appointed only in certain situations.
- In a significant move to tackle pendency of criminal cases, the Supreme Court allowed the high courts across the country to appoint **retired HC judges on an ad-hoc basis**, subject to conditions that **they will only hear criminal appeals** in a bench headed by a sitting judge.
- As per the bench, Each HC should keep the appointment to two to five ad-hoc judges and not exceed **20% of the total sanctioned strength**
- The order by a special bench comprising **chief justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna** and **justices BR Gavai** and **Surya Kant** will allow chief justices of high courts to initiate recommending names of retired HC judges for appointment
- Both the retired Judge and the President of India must consent to the appointment.

Padma Awards 2025 Announced



- For the year 2025, the President has approved conferment of **139 Padma Awards** including **1 duo case** (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one- two individuals jointly receive a single award, which is then counted as only one award in the overall total)
- Padma Awards 2025 comprises **7 Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri Awards.**
- **23 of the awardees are women**
- **10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI**
- **13 Posthumous awardees.**

Padma Vibhushan(7)

SN	Name	Field	State/Country
1.	Shri Duvvur Nageshwar Reddy	Medicine	Telangana
2.	Justice (Retd.) Shri Jagdish Singh Khehar	Public Affairs	Chandigarh
3.	Smt. Kumudini Rajnikant Lakhia	Art	Gujarat
4.	Shri LakshminarayanaSubramaniam	Art	Karnataka
5.	Shri M. T. Vasudevan Nair (Posthumous)	Literature and Education	Kerala
6.	Shri Osamu Suzuki (Posthumous)	Trade and Industry	Japan
7.	Smt. Sharda Sinha (Posthumous)	Art	Bihar

Padma Bhushan(19)

SN	Name	Field	State/Country
8.	Shri A Surya Prakash	Literature and Education-Journalism	Karnataka
9.	Shri Anant Nag	Art	Karnataka
10.	Shri Bibek Debroy(Posthumous)	Literature and Education	NCT Delhi
11.	Shri Jatin Goswami	Art	Assam
12.	Shri Jose Chacko Periappuram	Medicine	Kerala
13.	Shri Kailash Nath Dikshit	Others-Archaeology	NCT Delhi
14.	Shri Manohar Joshi(Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Maharashtra

15.	Shri Nalli Kuppaswami Chetti	Trade and Industry	Tamil Nadu
16.	Shri Nandamuri Balakrishna	Art	Andhra Pradesh
17.	Shri P R Sreejesh	Sports	Kerala
18.	Shri Pankaj Patel	Trade and Industry	Gujarat
19.	Shri Pankaj Udhas(Posthumous)	Art	Maharashtra
20.	Shri Rambahadur Rai	Literature and Education-Journalism	Uttar Pradesh
21.	Sadhvi Ritambhara	Social Work	Uttar Pradesh
22.	Shri S Ajith Kumar	Art	Tamil Nadu

23.	Shri Shekhar Kapur	Art	Maharashtra
24.	Ms. Shobana Chandrakumar	Art	Tamil Nadu
25.	Shri Sushil Kumar Modi(Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Bihar
26.	Shri Vinod Dham	Science and Engineering	United States of America

Padma Shri (113)

SN	Name	Field
27.	Shri Adwaita Charan Gadanayak	Art
28.	Shri Achyut Ramchandra Palav	Art
29.	Shri Ajay V Bhatt	Science and Engineering
30.	Shri Anil Kumar Boro	Literature and Education
31.	Shri Arijit Singh	Art
32.	Smt. Arundhati Bhattacharya	Trade and Industry
33.	Shri Arunoday Saha	Literature and Education
34.	Shri Arvind Sharma	Literature and Education
35.	Shri Ashok Kumar Mahapatra	Medicine
36.	Shri Ashok Laxman Saraf	Art

37.	Shri Ashutosh Sharma	Science and Engineering
38.	Smt. Ashwini Bhide Deshpande	Art
39.	Shri Baijnath Maharaj	Others-Spiritualism
40.	Shri Barry Godfray John	Art
41.	Smt. Begam Batool	Art
42.	Shri Bharat Gupt	Art
43.	Shri Bheru Singh Chouhan	Art
44.	Shri Bhim Singh Bhavesh	Social Work
45.	Smt. Bhimavva Doddabalappa Shillekyathara	Art
46.	Shri Budhendra Kumar Jain	Medicine
47.	Shri C S Vaidyanathan	Public Affairs
48.	Shri Chaitram Deochand Pawar	Social Work
49.	Shri Chandrakant Sheth(Posthumous)	Literature and Education

50.	Shri Chandrakant Sompura	Others-Architecture
51.	Shri Chetan E Chitnis	Science and Engineering
52.	Shri David R Syiemlieh	Literature and Education
53.	Shri Durga Charan Ranbir	Art
54.	Shri Farooq Ahmad Mir	Art
55.	Shri Ganeshwar Shastri Dravid	Literature and Education
56.	Smt. Gita Upadhyay	Literature and Education
57.	Shri Gokul Chandra Das	Art
58.	Shri Guruvayur Dorai	Art
59.	Shri Harchandan Singh Bhatta	Art
60.	Shri Hariman Sharma	Others-Agriculture
61.	Shri Harjinder Singh Srinagar Wale	Art
62.	Shri Harvinder Singh	Sports
63.	Shri Hassan Raghu	Art

64.	Shri Hemant Kumar	Medicine
65.	Shri Hriday Narayan Dixit	Literature and Education
66.	Shri Hugh and Colleen Gantzer(Posthumous)(Duo)*	Literature and Education-Journalism
67.	Shri Inivalappil Mani Vijayan	Sports
68.	Shri Jagadish Joshila	Literature and Education
69.	Smt. Jaspinder Narula	Art
70.	Shri Jonas Masetti	Others-Spiritualism
71.	Shri Joynacharan Bathari	Art
72.	Smt. Jumde Yomgam Gamlin	Social Work
73.	Shri K. Damodaran	Others-Culinary
74.	Shri K L Krishna	Literature and Education
75.	Smt. K Omanakutty Amma	Art
76.	Shri Kishore Kunal(Posthumous)	Civil Service

77.	Shri L Hangthing	Others-Agriculture
78.	Shri Lakshmipathy Ramasubbaiyer	Literature and Education-Journalism
79.	Shri Lalit Kumar Mangotra	Literature and Education
80.	Shri Lama Lobzang(Posthumous)	Others-Spiritualism
81.	Smt. Libia Lobo Sardesai	Social Work
82.	Shri M D Srinivas	Science and Engineering
83.	Shri Madugula Nagaphani Sarma	Art
84.	Shri Mahabir Nayak	Art
85.	Smt. Mamata Shankar	Art
86.	Shri Manda Krishna Madiga	Public Affairs
87.	Shri Maruti Bhujangrao Chitampalli	Literature and Education
88.	Shri Miriyala Apparao(Posthumous)	Art
89.	Shri Nagendra Nath Roy	Literature and Education
90.	Shri Narayan (Bhulai Bhai)(Posthumous)	Public Affairs

91.	Shri Naren Gurung	Art
92.	Smt. Neerja Bhatla	Medicine
93.	Smt. Nirmala Devi	Art
94.	Shri Nitin Nohria	Literature and Education
95.	Shri Onkar Singh Pahwa	Trade and Industry
96.	Shri P Datchanamoorthy	Art
97.	Shri Pandi Ram Mandavi	Art
98.	Shri Parmar Lavjibhai Nagjibhai	Art
99.	Shri Pawan Goenka	Trade and Industry
100.	Shri Prashanth Prakash	Trade and Industry
101.	Smt. Pratibha Satpathy	Literature and Education
102.	Shri Purisai Kannappa Sambandan	Art
103.	Shri R Ashwin	Sports

104.	Shri R G Chandramogan	Trade and Industry
105.	Smt. Radha Bahin Bhatt	Social Work
106.	Shri Radhakrishnan Devasenapathy	Art
107.	Shri Ramdarash Mishra	Literature and Education
108.	Shri Ranendra Bhanu Majumdar	Art
109.	Shri Ratan Kumar Parimoo	Art
110.	Shri Reba Kanta Mahanta	Art
111.	Shri Renthlei Lalrawna	Literature and Education
112.	Shri Ricky Gyan Kej	Art
113.	Shri Sajjan Bhajanka	Trade and Industry
114.	Smt. Sally Holkar	Trade and Industry
115.	Shri Sant Ram Deswal	Literature and Education
116.	Shri Satyapal Singh	Sports

117.	Shri Seeni Viswanathan	Literature and Education
118.	Shri Sethuraman Panchanathan	Science and Engineering
119.	Smt. Sheikha Shaikha Ali Al-Jaber Al-Sabah	Medicine
120.	Shri Sheen Kaaf Nizam (Shiv Kishan Bissa)	Literature and Education
121.	Shri Shyam Bihari Agrawal	Art
122.	Smt. Soniya Nityanand	Medicine
123.	Shri Stephen Knapp	Literature and Education
124.	Shri Subhash Khetulal Sharma	Others-Agriculture
125.	Shri Suresh Harilal Soni	Social Work
126.	Shri Surinder Kumar Vasal	Science and Engineering
127.	Shri Swami Pradiptananda (Kartik Maharaj)	Others-Spiritualism

128.	Shri Syed Ainul Hasan	Literature and Education
129.	Shri Tejendra Narayan Majumdar	Art
130.	Smt. Thiyam Suryamukhi Devi	Art
131.	Shri Tushar Durgeshbhai Shukla	Literature and Education
132.	Shri Vadiraj Raghawendracharya Panchamukhi	Literature and Education
133.	Shri Vasudeo Kamath	Art
134.	Shri Velu Aasaan	Art
135.	Shri Venkappa Ambaji Sugatekar	Art
136.	Shri Vijay Nityanand Surishwar Ji Maharaj	Others-Spiritualism
137.	Smt. Vijayalakshmi Deshamane	Medicine
138.	Shri Vilas Dangre	Medicine
139.	Shri Vinayak Lohani	Social Work

India Adds 4 New Ramsar Wetlands, First for Jharkhand & Sikkim



- Ahead of World Wetlands Day on **2nd February**, four more sites have been designated as Ramsar sites in India.
- This has increased wetlands tally from 85 to **89**, **highest in Asia**, **third globally**.
 - United Kingdom (176), and Mexico (144).
- These sites are spread in **23 States and 2 UTs of the country**.
- Wetlands have been added from **Tamil Nadu, Sikkim and Jharkhand**.
- Tamil Nadu leads with **20 Ramsar sites**, the highest among Indian states.
- **Sikkim and Jharkhand have added their first Ramsar sites.**

- The new sites are:
 - **Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary** and **Therthangal Bird Sanctuary** in Tamil Nadu
 - **Khecheopalri Wetland** in Sikkim
 - **Udhwa Lake** in Jharkhand.
- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty adopted on **February 2, 1971**, in the **Iranian city of Ramsar**, on the southern shore of the **Caspian Sea**.
- It came into force for India on **February 1, 1982**.
- India joined the Convention in **1982**
- Those wetlands which are of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites.
- The number of Indian sites in the list has increased from 26 to 89 in the last over ten years, of which 47 have been added in the last over three years.
- In 2024, Ramsar declared 10 more wetland sites from India as sites of international importance.
- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change: **Bhupender Yadav**

Indian Railways Launches 'SwaRail' SuperApp for Seamless Travel



- The Ministry of Railways has introduced the SuperApp '**SwaRail**', a one-stop solution offering comprehensive railway services to the public.
- Currently in beta testing, the app is available for download on the Google Play Store and Apple App Store.
- A key focus of the App is enhancing user experience with a seamless and clean user interface (UI).
- It integrates various railway services, eliminating the need for multiple applications and reducing space consumption on user devices.
- Developed by the **Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS)**

Niger Achieves Historic Milestone: First African Nation to Eliminate Oncho-cercia-sis



- The World Health Organization (WHO) congratulates Niger for having met the criteria for **onchocerciasis elimination**
- This making it the **fifth country globally and the first country in Africa** to be acknowledged by WHO for interrupting transmission of the parasite ***Onchocerca volvulus***.
- Onchocerciasis, commonly known as **river blindness**, is a parasitic disease and is the second leading infectious cause of blindness worldwide, after **trachoma**.
- It is transmitted to humans through the **bites of infective black flies**, primarily found in riverine areas.

Union Budget 2025-26



- Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs **Nirmala Sitharaman** presented Union Budget 2025-26 in the Parliament
- She made history as she presented a record **eighth consecutive budget**
- Sitharaman's achievement places her in line to surpass the **record of 10 budgets** set by former Prime Minister **Morarji Desai**, who served as the country's finance minister during two separate periods: from 1959 to 1964, and again from 1967 to 1969.
- Former finance ministers **P Chidambaram and Pranab Mukherjee** had presented nine and eight budgets, respectively, under different prime ministers.
- The latest budget recognising 4 engines of development- **Agriculture, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), investment and exports.**

- The Union Budget 2025-26, with the theme **Sabka Vikas**, aims to stimulate balanced growth across all regions.
 - The **total receipts other than borrowings** and the **total expenditure** are estimated at **₹ 34.96 lakh crore** and **₹ 50.65 lakh crore** respectively.
 - The **net tax receipts** are estimated at **₹ 28.37 lakh crore**.
 - The **fiscal deficit** is estimated to be **4.4 per cent of GDP**.
 - The **gross market borrowings** are estimated at **₹ 14.82 lakh crore**.
 - **Capex Expenditure** of **₹11.21 lakh crore** (3.1% of GDP) earmarked in FY2025-26.
- No personal income tax payable upto **income of Rs 12 lakh** (i.e. average income of Rs 1 lakh per month other than special rate income such as capital gains) under the new regime.

India to Host BRICS Youth Entrepreneurship Meet in March 2025



- The **Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India** is organizing the **BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Working Group Meeting** from 3rd to 7th March 2025.
- The theme of the meeting is “**Youth Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Growth**”
- The meeting will be attended by around 45 youth representatives from BRICS Countries.
- Representatives from BRICS nations—**Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**

Mount Taranaki Granted Legal Personhood



- New Zealand has passed a law granting **Mount Taranaki**, a mountain considered sacred by the Taranaki iwi (Māori people), **legal personhood**
- Taranaki Maunga, the **second-highest mountain on New Zealand's North Island**, along with its surrounding peaks, has been granted legal personhood
- Becoming the **third natural feature** in the country to receive the same rights, duties, and protections as an individual
- In 2014, the **Te Urewera forest** was the first to receive such recognition.
- This was followed by the **Whanganui River in 2017.**

World Wetlands Day 2025



- World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on **2 February**.
- World Wetlands Day was first celebrated in the year **1997**.
- The day was chosen as World Wetlands Day officially on **30 August, 2021** under the resolution 75/317 adopted at the UN General Assembly.
- Theme of World Wetlands Day 2025: ***Protecting Wetlands for our Common Future***
- **The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** organised the World Wetlands Day 2025 celebrations at the **Parvati Arga Ramsar Site, Gonda, Uttar Pradesh (UP)** on 2nd February 2025.
- India has been a party to the Convention since 1982, designating **89 Ramsar sites**.

World Cancer Day: 4 February



- World Cancer Day, observed annually on **February 4th**, is a global initiative led by the Union for **International Cancer Control (UICC)** to raise awareness about cancer
- The theme of World Cancer Day 2025 is '**United by Unique**'
 - 2024 Theme: "**Together, We Challenge Those in Power**"
- World Cancer Day was started on **4 February 2000**.
- It was founded by the **Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)**, the leading international organization in the fight against cancer.

India's First White Tiger Breeding Centre Approved in MP



- The **Central Zoo Authority (CZA)** has given final approval for India's first white tiger breeding centre, to be established in **Govindgarh, Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh.**
- This project is a landmark step in wildlife conservation, as Rewa holds historical significance for being home to the last known wild white tiger
- The project received in-principle approval in **2011.**
- **Rewa** is believed to be home to the last wild white tiger.

UK Becomes First Country to Criminalize AI-Generated Child Abuse

Content



- The **United Kingdom** is set to become the first country in the world to introduce new laws making it **illegal to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools to create sexualised images of children.**
- This move comes in response to a disturbing surge in the creation of child abuse material using AI, with online predators increasingly exploiting technology to manipulate real-life images of children.

India-Maldives Military Exercise 'Ekuverin':



- The 13th edition of the joint military exercise "**Ekuverin**," between **India and the Maldives**, commenced in the Maldives on February 4, 2025
- "Ekuverin" is a Dhivehi word meaning "**friends**"
- Initiated in **2009**, the exercise aims to strengthen the military partnership between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Forces (MNDF).
- The 12th edition of Ekuverin was held in **Chaubatia, Uttarakhand**, from 11-24 June 2023.

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2025

MARCH 1

WhatsApp-Based 'Mana Mitra' to Offer 161 Govt Services in Andhra



- The Andhra Pradesh government rolled out **WhatsApp Governance**, offering 161 services to citizens initially.
- With the launch of WhatsApp governance, people need not have to make rounds of government offices to get certificates such as Other Backward Class (OBC), Economically Weaker Section (EWS), and income certificates
- The government announced that the WhatsApp number to avail of the services, in the name of **Mana Mitra**, is **9552300009**.
- The state government signed an agreement with **Meta on October 22, 2024**, to implement the digital initiative and realise the government's broader vision to position Andhra Pradesh as a leader in digital governance and technology-driven public service delivery.

International Big Cat Alliance Now a Treaty Organization

International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA)



- **The Framework Agreement on establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** has officially come into force.
- From **23rd January, 2025**, the IBCA and its Secretariat have become a full-fledged treaty based inter-governmental international organization and international legal entity.
- To this effect, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India (the Depository of the Framework Agreement) has confirmed that five countries - **Republic of Nicaragua, Kingdom of Eswatini, Republic of India, Federal Republic of Somalia and Republic of Liberia** - have deposited the instruments of ratification/acceptance/approval, under the Article VIII (1) of the Framework Agreement.

- As of now, **27 countries including India** have consented to join IBCA and several international/national organisations working in the field of wildlife conservation have also partnered with IBCA.
- The five countries mentioned above have signed the Framework Agreement to formally become members of the IBCA.
- The IBCA was launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on **9th April, 2023**, during the event '**Commemorating 50 years of Project Tiger**'.
- The Union Cabinet, in its meeting held on **29th February 2024**, approved the establishment of IBCA with headquarters in India.
- It was launched with the aim of conservation of seven big cats - **Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma** – with membership of all UN countries/the range countries harbouring the said species and non-range countries where historically these species are not found but interested to support big cat conservation.
- India has committed **Rs. 150 crore (2023-2028)** in support to the IBCA and is exploring additional funding through bilateral, multilateral, and donor organizations.

R Praggnanandhaa Wins Tata Steel Masters Chess Title



- Grandmaster **R Praggnanandhaa** secured his first Tata Steel Masters title in 2025
- He defeated world champion D Gukesh in a thrilling tiebreaker to become the **first Indian winner since Viswanathan Anand in 2006**
- **Viswanathan Anand**: 5-time winner(3 shared)- 1989, 1998, 2003, 2004, 2006
- The 87th edition of the Tata Steel Chess Masters took place in **Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands.**
- 2024 Winner: **Wei Yi, China**

Horst Koehler, Ex-German President and IMF Chief, Passes Away



- **Horst Koehler**, former German President from 2004 to 2010 and a respected global policymaker with a particular interest in Africa, died at the age of 81
- Koehler became **Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund** in **2000**, a post he held for four years before being nominated for president in 2004.
- As president, he was not afraid to defy the government, dissolving parliament in 2005 to call new elections and accusing then-Chancellor **Angela Merkel** in **2007** of not preparing the country sufficiently for globalisation.

Bart De Wever Sworn in as Belgium's New Prime Minister



- Belgium saw a significant political shift as **Bart De Wever**, leader of the **New Flemish Alliance (N-VA)**, was sworn in as the country's new Prime Minister.
- This marks the **first time a Flemish nationalist** has ascended to the highest office in Belgium.
- After more than eight months of tough coalition talks, a new government was formed with **five political parties**
- This newly formed coalition, called "**Arizona**," now holds a majority in Belgium's 150-seat federal parliament

Army Partners with IIT Guwahati for Bamboo Bunkers



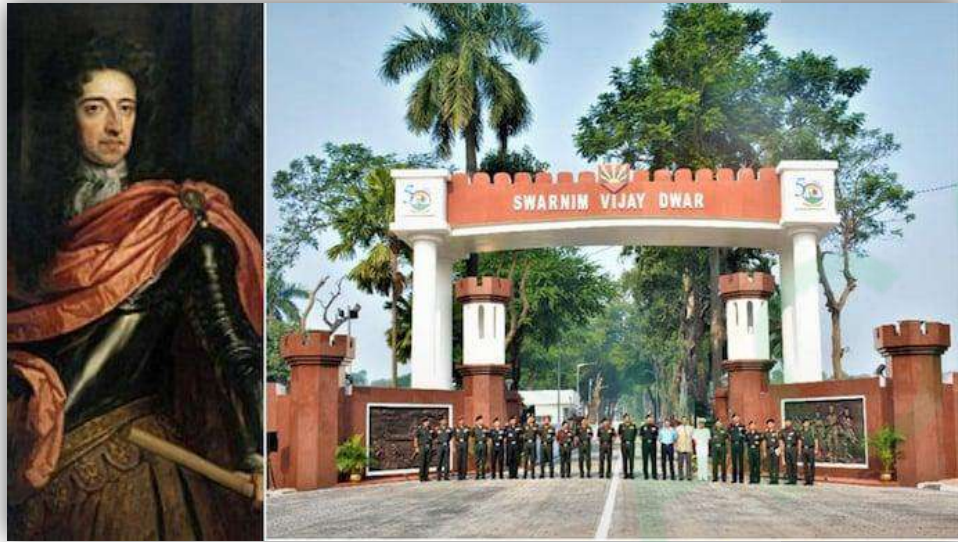
- The Indian Army's Gajraj Corps and **IIT Guwahati** have partnered to develop and fabricate epoxy bamboo-based composites for use in high-altitude bunker construction, aiming **to replace traditional building materials**
- This initiative focuses on promoting sustainability, minimizing weight, and enhancing ease of deployment in high-altitude areas such as Arunachal.
- Signatories: **Maj. Gen. Rohin Bawa (Army) & Prof. Devendra Jaliha (IIT-G)**

Shivraj singh chouhan launches watershed yatra



- Union Rural Development Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched the "**Watershed Yatra**".
- This campaign was launched to increase people's participation and create awareness in watershed development activities under the **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (WDC-PMKSY 2.0)**.
- Watersheds are areas where water drains into water bodies like lakes, rivers, and oceans.
- The **Ministry of Rural Development** launched the initiative, with the Department of Land Resources implementing the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) 2.0.

Fort William Renamed as 'Vijay Durg'



- Fort William, the headquarters of the Indian Army's Eastern Command in Kolkata, has been renamed **Vijay Durg** as part of a broader effort to remove colonial imprints from Indian military establishments
- It is named after Maharashtra's oldest **Sindhudurg fort**, a former Maratha naval base under Chhatrapati Shivaji.
- Other changes include renaming
 - **Kitchener House** inside Fort William has been renamed **Manekshaw House**, after Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, India's first Field Marshal and hero of the 1971 Indo-Pak war.
 - South Gate, previously called **St. George's Gate**, has been renamed **Shivaji Gate**, honoring Chhatrapati Shivaji's legacy.

- The fort is located in Kolkata on the eastern banks of the **Hooghly River** and was originally named after **King William III of England**.
 - The original fort was built by the British in 1696 under Sir John Goldsborough and completed in 1706.
 - It was damaged during the Siege of Calcutta (1756) when Siraj-ud-Daulah defeated the British.
 - After the Battle of Plassey (1757), Robert Clive rebuilt it at a new location between 1758 and 1781.
- Other Similar Renamings:
 - Renaming **Rajpath to Kartavya Path** and **Port Blair to Sri Vijaya Puram**.
 - The Indian Navy adopted a new ensign, removing colonial symbols (2022).

“Shatavari – For Better Health” a nationwide Species-Specific Campaign launched



- In a bid to raise awareness about the health benefits of medicinal plants, a species-specific campaign titled “**Shatavari –For Better Health**” was launched by **Prataprao Jadhav**, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Ayush.
- This campaign is focused on spreading awareness regarding the health benefits of Shatavari.
- This plant is widely recognized for its medicinal properties, especially in **promoting women’s health.**
- Earlier, National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) has successfully launched campaigns for various medicinal plants, including **Amla, Moringa, Giloe, and Ashwagandha.**

- Shatavari is scientifically known as **Asparagus racemosus** & it is a woody climber native to tropical climates.
- This herb is highly effective in problems related with female reproductive system.
- The dried roots of the plant are used as drug.
- In Ayurveda, this amazing herb is known as the “**Queen of herbs**”.
- Shatavari means “**acceptable to many**”.

Kerala Secures Rs 2,424 cr World Bank Loan to Strengthen Healthcare

System



- The Kerala government approved the Kerala Health System Improvement Programme after securing a Rs **2,424.28 crore loan from the World Bank.**
- The project, aimed at improving public healthcare, was cleared during a cabinet meeting chaired by **Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan**
- It will be implemented under the **Programme for Results (P for R) model.**
- The programme's primary aim is to elevate living standards and life expectancy in Kerala.
- It seeks to help residents avoid preventable diseases, accidents, and early deaths.

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of RBI has cut repo rate by 25 bps to 6.25%



- The RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Meeting 2025 was presented by RBI Governor **Sanjay Malhotra**
- RBI reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points on 7th Feb 2025, marking the first rate cut in 5 years.
- Reverse Repo Rate: **Remains at 3.35%**, maintaining liquidity balance.
- MPC consists of **six members**-three Members from RBI and three are appointed by the Central Government.
- **RBI governor** is the ex officio Chairperson of the committee.
- The Repo Rate (Repurchase Rate) is the interest rate at which the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lends money to commercial banks against government securities.

RBI Launches 'Bank.in' & 'Fin.in' for Secure Digital Banking



- In order to bolster trust in digital banking and reduce fraud risks, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is launching exclusive internet domains—'**bank.in**' and '**fin.in**'—for Indian financial institutions.
- This initiative aims to tackle the rising instances of fraud and cyber security threats in the rapidly growing digital payment space, particularly phishing and other malicious activities that have compromised the safety of online transactions.
- The 'bank.in' domain will be available exclusively to Indian banks, providing a secure and easily identifiable online presence for these institutions

Odisha Govt Launches 'Bikashita Gaon' Scheme for Village Development



- The Odisha government has launched the "**Bikashita Gaon Bikashita Odisha**" scheme, announced by Chief Minister **Mohan Charan Majhi**
- The scheme is to focus on **rural infrastructure development**, aiming to improve road connectivity, civic amenities, educational facilities, and micro-tourism in rural areas.
- The 'Bikashita Gaon Bikashita Odisha' scheme will have an allocation of **₹5,000 crore over a five-year period**
- This scheme follows the path of earlier initiatives like 'Ama Gaon Ama Bikash' (2018) and 'Ama Odisha Naveen Odisha' (2023) but with improved implementation and financial commitment.

- The scheme is similar to those launched by former chief minister Naveen Patnaik in 2018 and 2023
 - But the funding for the scheme dried up after two years.
 - In contrast to the ₹1250 crore allocated to the scheme in 2018, the allocation reduced to ₹400 crore in 2019-20.
 - No allocation was made for the scheme in subsequent years.

US President Trump Recognizes February 9 as 'Gulf of America Day'



- US President Donald Trump has officially recognized **February 9** as **"Gulf of America Day,"**
- It was following a significant change to the name of the Gulf of Mexico.
- This marks the first time such a day has been established, and it comes after President Trump signed an executive order to rename the Gulf, an initiative that has drawn both national and international attention.
- The **US Coast Guard** became the first official government entity to use the term Gulf of America

Assam to Host World's Largest Jhumur Festival



- Assam hosted the world's largest Jhumur dance festival on February 24, 2025, at Sarusajai Stadium in **Guwahati**
- The festival sets a **Guinness World Record with over 8,000 performers**, as part of the Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment Summit
- The second edition of this Assam 2.0 summit runs after achieving success in its previous launch in **2018**.
- The festival highlights Assam's rich cultural heritage.
- It also serves as a global platform to attract investors.

India Ranks 3rd in Global LEED Green Buildings 2024



- India has once again secured the third position globally in the **U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC)** annual ranking of countries and regions with the most LEED-certified green buildings.
- With **370 projects covering 8.50 million gross square meters (GSM)** of certified space, India continues to demonstrate its commitment to sustainable construction and environmentally responsible development.
- On the global stage, mainland **China** led the rankings in 2024 with over 25 million GSM of LEED-certified space, while Canada followed with 10 million GSM.
- In 2023, the country held the **third** spot with 7.23 million GSM across 248 projects.
- In 2022, India ranked **second**, achieving 10.47 million GSM across 323 projects.



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World Pulses Day 2025



- World Pulses Day 2025 is celebrated every year on **10th February**.
- The day is celebrated as a day of recognition of pulses and their role in human nutrition, environmental well-being and sustainable agriculture.
- The day was declared as world pulses day under the **United Nations General Assembly in 2016**.
- The year was also marked as the **International Year of Pulses**
- This observance began in 2018 under the guidance of the United Nations and the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** to highlight the importance of pulses in global food systems.
- Theme for 2025: ***Pulses: Bringing Diversity to Agrifood Systems.***

- The Union Budget 2025 has allocated **Rs 1,000 crore** for the implementation of the Pulse Mission over six years (2025-2026).
- India's pulse production has increased significantly over the years, rising from 163.23 lakh tonnes in 2015-16 to **244.93 lakh tonnes in 2023-24**.
- **India produces the largest pulses(25%)**, followed by Canada(9%), China(6%) and European Union(5%).
- India has the largest production(25%), consumption (27%) and importer(14%) of pulses in the world.
- 75% of pulses are produced in the states of **Madhya Pradesh(29.67%), Maharashtra(14.66%) and Rajasthan(13.75%)**.

Joint Military Exercise 'Cyclone 2025' India and Egypt Begins



- The 3rd edition of Joint Special Forces Exercise **CYCLONE** commenced at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in **Rajasthan**.
- The exercise is being conducted from 10th to 23rd February 2025.
- Exercise CYCLONE is an annual event conducted alternatively in **India and Egypt**.
- Last edition of the same exercise was conducted in **Egypt in January 2024**.
- The Indian contingent comprising 25 personnel will be represented by troops from two **Special Forces Battalions**.
- Egypt contingent also comprising 25 personnel will be represented by **Special Forces Group and Task Force of Egyptian Special Forces**.

Varsha Bharath's Bad Girl Wins NETPAC Award at IFFR



- **Varsha Bharath's** directorial debut, **Bad Girl**, has won the prestigious **NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema)** Award at the International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) 2025.
- The film, presented by acclaimed filmmakers **Anurag Kashyap and Vetrimaaran**
- Apart from Bad Girl, other Indian films that have won this honour at IFFR include Arun Karthick's **Nasir (2019)**, Mani Kaul's **Naukar ki Kameez (1999)** and Adoor Gopalakrishnan's **Vidheyan (1995)**

Varun Chakravarthy Becomes India's 2nd Oldest ODI Debutant



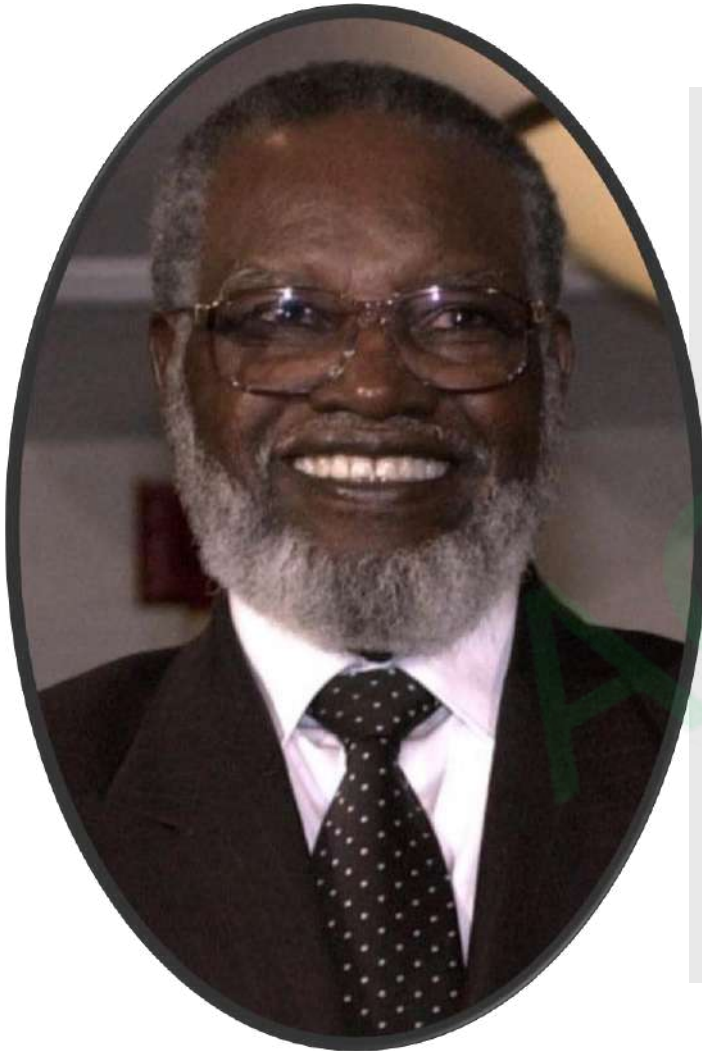
- **Varun Chakravarthy** made his ODI debut for India at the age of 33, becoming the second oldest One-Day cricketer for India in the last 50 years
- Chakravarthy, 33 years and 164 days, hence became the second oldest Indian to make a debut in ODI cricket after **Farookh Engineer** (at 36 years and 138 days, vs England in Leeds in 1974).
- He was a member of the team that won the **2025 Champions Trophy**.
- He plays for Tamil Nadu in domestic cricket and **Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League**

Rohit Sharma became the second most six-hitter in ODI cricket



- India skipper **Rohit Sharma** became the second most prolific six-hitter in the history of One-Day International cricket during the second ODI against England in Cuttack
- He was level on 331 sixes with Chris Gayle ahead of the match, and overtook the West Indies opener
- **Shahid Afridi** is currently the top six-hitter in ODI cricket, having smashed 351 sixes in 398 innings in the format.
- However, Rohit holds the record **for most sixes across formats**, having hit 624 maximums across T20Is, ODIs and Test matches.
- Rohit also leads the six-hitting charts in **T20 Internationals**, with 205 sixes to his name in 151 innings.

Sam Nujoma, Namibia's First President, Passes Away at 95



- **Sam Nujoma**, Namibia's first president and a prominent figure in the country's independence movement, passed away at the age of 95.
- Nujoma played a pivotal role in leading Namibia to **freedom from South Africa** in 1990.
- He served as president for 15 years and was hailed as the "***Father of the Namibian Nation***."
- Served as president for three terms (1990-2005).
- Nujoma was a founding member and the first president of the **South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO)** in 1960.

DPIIT & KOTI Ink MoU for Logistics & Infrastructure Growth



- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in logistics and infrastructure development between the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, Government of India (GoI) and the **Korea Transport Institute (KoTI)**, Republic of Korea (RoK) was signed at the Sejong National Research Complex, South Korea
- It was signed by **Mr. Youngchan Kim**, President of KOTI, and **H.E. Amit Kumar**, Ambassador of India to the Republic of Korea.
- The MoU will enhance cooperation in logistics and infrastructure development, leveraging KOTI's expertise to support India's ambitious infrastructure initiatives.
- This will help in the development of infrastructure and logistics master plans under the aegis of the prestigious program - **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan**.

Bangladesh Launches 'Operation Devil Hunt'



- **Operation Devil Hunt** was launched in Bangladesh to curb rising violence targeting properties linked to former **PM Sheikh Hasina and the Awami League**.
- The interim government led by **Muhammad Yunus** ordered the crackdown after attacks in Gazipur district spread nationwide
- Meanwhile, tensions between India and Bangladesh have risen over India's condemnation of the demolition of the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum.
- The Bangladeshi Foreign Ministry rejected India's statement, calling it "unexpected and unwarranted", asserting that Bangladesh does not interfere in India's internal matters.

Indian Army and IAF Execute 'Winged Raider' in Eastern Theater



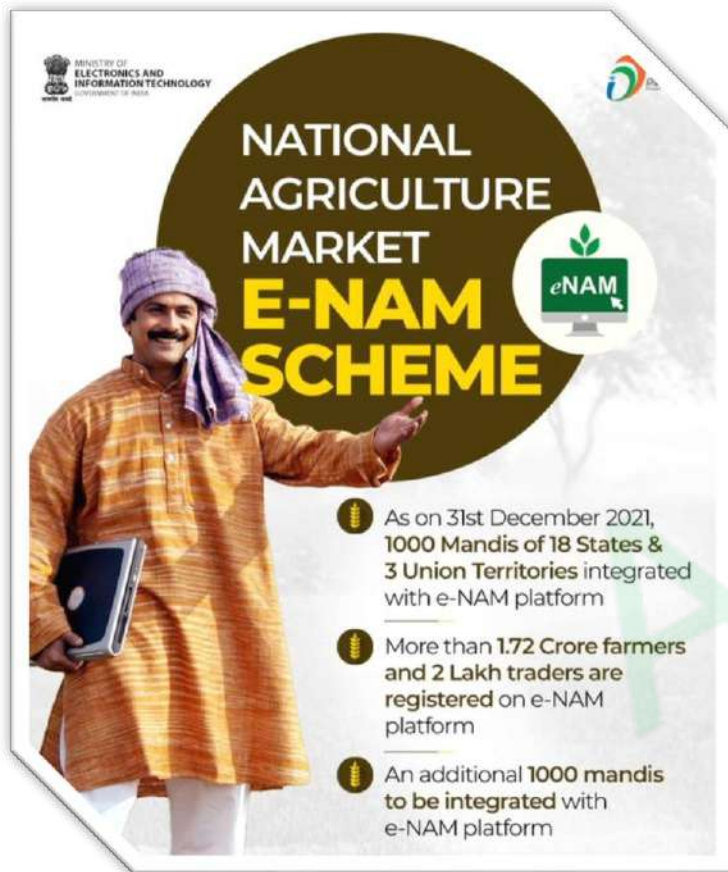
- The Indian Army recently completed training exercise named **Ex Winged Raider**.
- Ex Winged Raider aimed to improve the capabilities of both the **Indian Army** and the **IAF**.
- This operation focused on special airborne operations and brought into light the importance of inter-service collaboration.
- Chief of Army Staff **General Upendra Dwivedi** and Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal **Amar Preet Singh** flew together in the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas on February 9, 2025.
- This was the first time both service chiefs flew together in the Tejas, symbolizing enhanced collaboration between the Indian Army and the IAF.

HAL's Upgraded Hindustan Jet Trainer 36 Renamed 'Yashas'



- During the opening ceremony of Aero India 2025, the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) **HJT-36** was renamed as **Yashas** after undergoing significant design modifications.
- It is now capable of **Stage II pilot training**, counter insurgency and counter surface force operations, armament training, aerobatics and other roles.
- The Secretary (Defence Production), **Sanjeev Kumar**, unveiled the newly renamed 'Yashas' in the presence of **Dr. D K Sunil**, the Chairman & Managing Director of HAL
- 'Yashas' is powered by a **FADEC-controlled AL-55I jet engine**, providing an optimal thrust-to-weight ratio for better performance.

Govt Adds 10 New Commodities to e-NAM for Better Market Access



- The Indian government has expanded the e-NAM platform by adding **10 new commodities, bringing the total to 231.**
- This move aims to enhance market access, ensure better price realization, and support **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).**
- In response to the continuous demand from farmers, traders and other stakeholders for inclusion of more agricultural commodities, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India has decided to further expand the scope of trade under e-NAM.
- This initiative aims to increase the coverage of agricultural commodities and offer more opportunities for farmers and traders to benefit from the digital trading platform, Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI) has formulated tradable parameters for 10 additional agricultural commodities

- The **National Agriculture Market (eNAM)** is a pan-India electronic trading system that integrates current APMC mandis to build a unified national agricultural market.
- e-NAM, launched in **2016**, is an online trading platform designed to create a unified national agricultural market.
- It connects farmers to **Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC)** mandis, ensuring a competitive and transparent price discovery system.
- It was launched by the **Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India**.
- The Portal is managed by **Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)** with the technology provider, NFCL's iKisan division.

Miscellaneous Commodities:

1. Dried Tulsi Leaves
2. Besan (Chickpea Flour)
3. Wheat Flour
4. Chana Sattu (Roasted Chickpea Flour)
5. Water Chestnut Flour

Spices:

6. Asafoetida
7. Dried Fenugreek Leaves

Vegetables:

8. Water Chestnut
9. Baby Corn

Fruits:

10. Dragon Fruit

HS Code for GI-Tagged Rice Exports



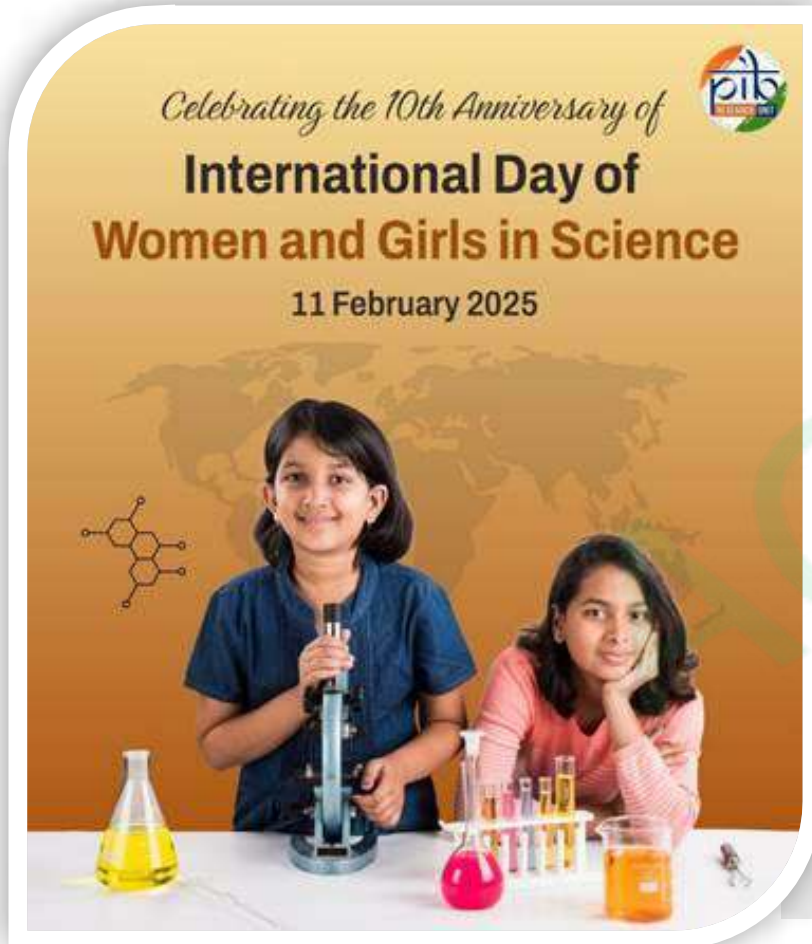
- India has amended the **Customs Tariff Act, 1975**, and became the **first country** to introduce an Harmonised System (HS) code for Geographical Indication (GI) tagged **rice varieties**.
- Announced in the 2025-26 Budget, the amendment includes **HS Code 1006-30-11 (parboiled rice)** and **1006-30-91 (white rice)** for exports.
- The HS Code allows **uninterrupted exports of GI-tagged rice**, even during general rice export bans, without requiring special government notifications.
- The HS managed by the **World Customs Organization (WCO)** and updated every five years, is a global standard for classifying traded goods using six-digit codes, with countries adding extensions for further classification.

Nokia Names Intel's AI Chief Hotard as New CEO



- Nokia has announced that **Justin Hotard**, currently the Executive Vice President and General Manager of Intel's Data Center & AI Group, will become the company's new CEO
- He is replacing **Pekka Lundmark**, who will step down on March 31, 2025.
- Hotard will officially take over on April 1, 2025.

International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2025



- On 22 December 2015, the General Assembly decided to establish an annual International Day to recognize the critical role women and girls play in science and technology
- The International Day of Women and Girls in Science, celebrated on **11 February**, is implemented by UNESCO and UN-Women, in collaboration institutions and civil society partners that aim to promote women and girls in science.
- The year 2025 marks the **10th anniversary** of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science (IDWGS), observed annually on 11th February.
- This day promotes the full and equal participation of women and girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Jil Teichmann Clinches Mumbai Open 2025 Title



- **Jil Teich-mann** of Switzerland won the Mumbai Open 2025 WTA 125 series singles title, defeating **Manan-chaya Sawang-kaew** of Thailand in the final
- Doubles winners : **Elena Pridan-kina/Amina Anshba (Russia)**
- India's **Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi**, was the breakout star of the tournament.
- The Mumbai Open is the biggest professional women's tennis tournament in India and it returned after a gap of six years in 2024.
- Mumbai Open 2025 is the **fourth edition of the tournament.**

Meghalaya to host National Games 2027



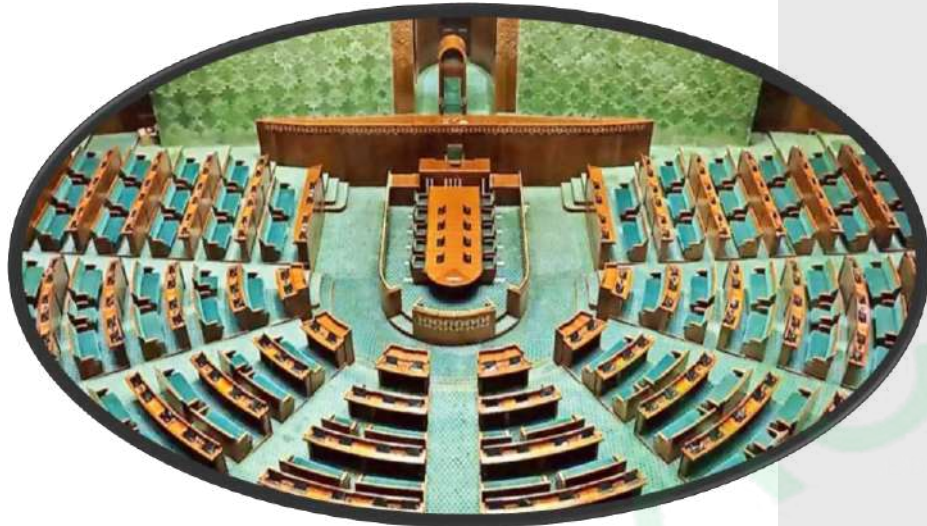
- The 2027 edition, which will be held in the February-March window, is set to be the **39th National Games**.
- **Meghalaya** will be the host state for the first time.
- The National Games is an Olympic-style multi-sport event where athletes from the various states and Union Territories of India compete for medals.
- The Games were first held in **Lahore**, undivided India, in 1924 and were known as the Indian Olympic Games until 1938.
- The National Games 2025 held in **Uttarakhand**.
- Goa hosted the National Games for the first time in 2023 while **Gujarat** hosted the National Games in 2022,

PM Modi's Gifts to French President and First Lady Showcase India's Rich Traditions



- During his two-day visit to France, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented a series of exquisite gifts to French President Emmanuel Macron and First Lady Brigitte Macron, reflecting the deep-rooted cultural and artistic heritage of India.
- One of the standout gifts was a **Dokra artwork**, presented to French President Emmanuel Macron.
 - This unique piece of art is a representation of musicians in dynamic poses, capturing the essence of **Indian folk traditions**.
- For First Lady Brigitte Macron, PM Modi gifted an intricately designed **silver table mirror**.
 - This luxurious piece of art originates from **Rajasthan**, a state known for its masterful metalwork and exquisite designs.

Lok Sabha Expands Translation Services to 6 More Languages



- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla announced the extension of translation services in the House to six additional languages—**Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Manipuri, Sanskrit and Urdu.**
- Until now, translation services have been provided in ten languages—**Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Tamil and Telugu, along with Hindi and English.**
- The initiative aims to expand coverage to all **22 Schedule 8 languages.**
- India's Parliament is the only one offering real-time translations in multiple languages
- DMK MP questioned its inclusion due to limited speakers and no official state recognition

Haryana Launches 'Har Khet-Swasth Khet' to Boost Soil Health



- The Haryana government has launched the '**Har Khet - Swasth Khet**' campaign to improve soil quality and promote sustainable agriculture.
- Under this initiative, 70 lakh soil samples have been collected across the state, with testing completed for **55 lakh samples**.
- So far, 86 lakh Soil Health Cards have been distributed to farmers, providing them with accurate information on soil fertility and nutrients.
- A dedicated '**Har Khet-Swasth Khet**' portal was launched in 2022 for soil testing data and farmer accessibility.
- Haryana received a **gold medal from the Skoch Group** for the Soil Health Card Project in 2022.

Warrican and Mooney crowned ICC Players of the Month for January



- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has revealed the ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month for January 2025 as the **West Indies' Jomel Warrican** and **Australia's Beth Mooney**.
- Left-arm spinner Warrican inspired the islanders to their first Test win in Pakistan since 1990, while Mooney was at her best as Australia convincingly brushed aside England in the Ashes.
- Warrican wins his maiden ICC Men's Player of the Month award
- Warrican becomes the first West Indian to win the award since fellow spinner Gudakesh Motie back in May 2024.

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Shikhar Dhawan Named ICC Champions Trophy 2025 Ambassador



- Former India opener **Shikhar Dhawan** named as one of the four event ambassadors for the ICC Champions Trophy held in **Pakistan and Dubai** from February 19 to March 9.
- Besides Dhawan, the all-star cast also boasts Pakistan's 2017 winning captain **Sarfaraz Ahmed**, former Australia all-rounder **Shane Watson**, and New Zealand's legendary fast bowler, **Tim Southee**.
- Dhawan holds the unique distinction of being the only player to win the **Golden Bat for two consecutive Champions Trophy tournaments**, a feat he achieved by being the highest run-scorer in both the 2013 and 2017 editions

MAGA + MIGA = MEGA partnership



- PM Modi, during his U.S. visit, introduced "MIGA", inspired by Trump's "MAGA."
- 'Maga' refers to '**Make America Great Again**,' while 'Miga' stands for '**Make India Great Again**.'
- He called MIGA and MAGA a "**mega** partnership for prosperity."
- India is focused on heritage and development, aiming for **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
- India is not neutral but supports peace in the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- India and the U.S. aim to double bilateral trade to **\$500 billion by 2030**.

- The meeting marked their **first official interaction** since Trump assumed office for his second term
- India agreed to purchase more US oil and gas, while Trump announced that the US would increase military sales to India, among other decisions.
- A major highlight of the visit was the United States' decision to sell **F-35 stealth fighter jets to India**, a move that significantly boosts India's defense capabilities.
- During the talks, President Trump assured India of his support in extraditing **Tahawwur Hussain Rana**, one of the accused in the 2008 Mumbai attacks.
- Both India and the US have agreed to strengthen trade partnerships in sectors like **artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and critical supply chains for strategic minerals**.
- The **"NISAR" satellite**, built in collaboration with "ISRO" and "NASA", will soon fly into space on the Indian launch vehicle.

Constantine Tassoulas Elected as Greece's New President



- Greece's parliament elected its former speaker, **Constantine Tassoulas**, as the country's president
- He will succeed **Katerina Sakellaro-pou-lou**, Greece's first female president, whose five-year term expires in March.
- Prime Minister: **Kyriakos Mitso-taki**
- The decision to nominate him has angered protesters who rallied outside parliament last month seeking justice over a deadly 2023 train crash.
- They say that on Tassoulas' watch as parliamentary speaker, lawmakers failed to investigate any political responsibility over Greece's worst rail disaster.

India's Prime Minister made his 6th Official Visit to France



- The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi paid a three-day visit to France on 10-12 February 2025.
- This was PM Modi's **sixth visit to France**.
- The PM's visit follows President of France Emmanuel Macron's visit to India in January 2024 as the Chief Guest for the **75th Republic Day of India**.
- PM Modi invited the French Army to explore the **Pinaka rocket launcher**.
 - Pinaka is a multi-barrel rocket launcher developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation**.

- The two leaders jointly inaugurated the new Indian Consulate General in **Marseille**, marking a significant step in strengthening diplomatic ties between **India and France**.
 - This marked a historic moment as it was the first time a French President participated in the inauguration of a foreign consulate
- Both countries agreed to collaborate on developing **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and Advanced Modular Reactors (AMRs)**.
- Launch of India-France **Indo-Pacific Triangular Development Cooperation**: It aims to support climate- and SDG-focused projects from third countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

Tulsi Gabbard, first Hindu to head US intelligence



- **Tulsi Gabbard** was sworn in as the US Director of National Intelligence following a narrow 52-48 Senate vote
- Endorsed by President Donald Trump, her appointment places her in charge of **America's 18 intelligence agencies**, overseeing and coordinating their operations.
- The Office of the Director of National Intelligence was formed to address intelligence failures exposed by the **September 11, 2001, terror attacks**.
- Once fully in office, Gabbard will be the third woman to hold the title of Director of National Intelligence if acting director **Lora Shiao** is included in the count.
- However, as a Senate-confirmed appointee, she is the second woman to occupy this coveted post, following **Avril Haines**.

Foy Sagar in Ajmer renamed Varun Sagar, King Edward Memorial is now Maharishi Dayanand Vishrant Grih



- The Rajasthan government has renamed two historic British-era landmarks in Ajmer to celebrate Indian heritage.
- The 132-year-old Foy **Sagar Lake** is now called **Varun Sagar**
 - Originally named after **British engineer Mr. Foy**.
 - Built during the British era (1892) as a famine relief project.
 - Now renamed after Lord Varun, the **Hindu god of water**.
- The 113-year-old King Edward Memorial Bhawan has been renamed **Maharishi Dayanand Vishrant Grih**.
 - Originally named after **King Edward VII** during British rule.
 - Renamed after Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, the founder of the Arya Samaj, who attained nirvana in Ajmer.

India to Host First Regional Social Justice Dialogue in 2025



- Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India, in collaboration with **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)-Employers' Federation of India (EFI)**, is set to host the first-ever Regional Dialogue on Social Justice on 24-25 February 2025 at **Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi**.
- It also marked the 74th Foundation Day of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) (founded on **24th February 1952**).
- Union Minister for Labour & Employment, **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** inaugurate First-Ever Regional Dialogue on Global Coalition for Social Justice
- The event was attended by ILO Director-General **Gilbert F. Hougbo**, Union Minister of State for Labour & Employment **Shobha Karandl-aje**, and other distinguished dignitaries.

Government Announces ₹100 Commemorative Coin Honoring Mohammed Rafi's Legacy



- In a tribute to the legendary playback singer Mohammed Rafi on his 100th birth anniversary, the Indian government has announced a **₹100 commemorative coin** to celebrate his unparalleled contributions to Indian music.
- As part of the centenary celebrations, a 100-foot tall '**Rafi Minar**' is being constructed in Rafi's birthplace, **Kotla Sultan Singh village near Amritsar, Punjab**.
- In 1948 Rafi received a **silver medal** from the Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, on the first anniversary of the Indian Independence Day
- In 1967, he was honored with the **Padma Shri** award by the Government of India.
- In 2001, Rafi was honoured with the "**Best Singer of the Millennium**" title by Hero Honda and Stardust magazine.

China to Build First Deepwater 'Space Station' in South China Sea



- **China** is taking marine exploration to the next level with a new deep-sea research station.
- Located 2,000 meters below the **South China Sea**, this station will push the limits of underwater science.
- Set to be fully operational by **2030**, it's not just about discovering what's beneath the surface but also strengthening China's position in a region full of valuable resources.
- This allowing scientists to live and work in the extreme deep-sea environment for extended periods
- The station will monitor **methane emissions** from the seafloor to better understand their impact on the climate.

Govt Approves Nilgai Culling in Haryana



- The **Haryana government** has recently approved new Wildlife (Protection) Rules permitting the shooting of male Nilgais, also known as blue bulls.
- This measure is intended to mitigate rising human-wildlife conflicts, particularly the damage these animals inflict on agricultural lands.
- This decision has ignited protests from environmentalists and local communities, particularly the **Bishnoi community**
- India's Nilgai population is around 100,000, with large numbers in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, MP, UP, and Rajasthan, where they are seen as a nuisance.
- IUCN lists Nilgai as a species of **Least Concern**.
- Nilgai (***Boselaphus tragocamelus***) is one of the largest Asian antelopes, native to India

Nodi Bandhan Scheme



- The West Bengal government, under Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, has introduced the “**Nodi Bandhan**” scheme in the 2025-26 budget to enhance riverine development and prevent erosion along the Ganga-Padma
- The scheme will help **combat natural disasters** while creating job opportunities.
- The budget allocates substantial funds for the **Ghatal Masterplan**, which focuses on flood prevention in West Midnapore.
- An initial allocation of ₹200 crore has been made to kickstart the project, with a total projected cost of ₹1,500 crore for comprehensive execution.

- **Nodi Bandhan translates to “River Bond” and aims to interconnect rivers and wetlands.**
- **This will create diverse livelihood options for the communities living in these areas.**
- **The programme is designed to promote sustainable development through nature-based solutions**
- **The primary objectives of Nodi Bandhan include combating natural disasters, preventing river erosion, and enhancing job opportunities.**
- **The scheme targets multiple districts affected by river erosion, particularly Murshidabad and Malda.**

BHARAT TEX 2025



- Bharat Tex 2025, India's largest global textile event, took place in **New Delhi**, highlighting the country's textile innovations and international trade opportunities.
- It is the **2nd edition** of one of the largest global textiles events.
- It is organized by the consortium of 12 Textile Export Promotion Councils and supported by the **Ministry of Textiles**
- Bharat Tex 2025 served as a platform to accelerate the government's "**Farm to Fibre, Fabric, Fashion, and Foreign Markets**" vision.
- India's textile exports have already reached ₹3 lakh crore
- During this event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced ambitious targets for India's textile exports, aiming to increase from ₹3 lakh crore to ₹9 lakh crore by 2030.

- **India's textile industry contributes 2.3% to GDP, 12% to exports, 13% to industrial production and employs 45 million, second only to agriculture.**
- **India is the 6th largest textile exporter globally (after China, EU, Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Turkey) and world's 2nd largest producer of textiles and garments.**
- **The sector holds a 4.5% share in global trade, with the United States and European Union accounting for 47% of India's textile and apparel exports.**
- **Initiatives such as the Prime Minister Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks Scheme and the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme were highlighted at the event, aiming to boost manufacturing and create an integrated textiles value chain**

Asian Winter Games 2025



- The 9th Asian Winter Games held in **Harbin, China**, from 7-14 February 2025
- This was the second time that Harbin has hosted the event, and the **third time China** had hosted the Asian Winter Games.
- The official mascots, “**Binbin**” and “**Nini**” (tigers)
- The motto “***Dream of Winter, Love among Asia***” symbolized unity and passion for winter sports.
- **China** topped the medal tally with 85 medals (32 Gold, 27 Silver, 26 Bronze).
- **Republic of Korea** finished second with 45 medals (16 Gold, 15 Silver, 14 Bronze).
- **Japan** secured third place with 37 medals (10 Gold, 12 Silver, 15 Bronze).

- India did not win any medals but demonstrated growth in winter sports.
- For the first time, India is fully funding its contingent for the Asian Winter Games under the Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSF) Scheme.
- Organized by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) and supported by the International Skating Union (ISU), the games featured 64 events across 11 winter sports disciplines.
- Saudi Arabia will host the 10th Asian Winter Games (NEOM 2029).
- It will be the first West Asian country to host this event.
- First Edition: 1986- Sapporo, Japan

Jacob Kiplimo Breaks Half-Marathon World Record in Barcelona



- **Jacob Kiplimo** has smashed the half marathon world record with a blistering time of **56:42** at the Barcelona Half Marathon becoming the first athlete to break the 57-minute barrier.
- The Ugandan shaved 48 seconds off **Yomif Kejelcha's** previous world mark (57:30) setting himself up nicely ahead of his marathon debut on 27 April in London.
- **Joyciline Jepkosgei (Kenya)** won the women's race in **1:04.11**.
- A half marathon is a road running event of **21.0975 kilometres** (13 miles 192.5 yards)—half the distance of a marathon.
 - The marathon is a long-distance foot race with a distance of **42.195**

kilometres (c. 26 mi 385 yd)

Madhya Pradesh Unveils India's First GCC Policy



- Madhya Pradesh has introduced the country's first dedicated **Global Capability Centre (GCC) policy**, aiming to establish the state as a leading hub for global innovation and collaboration.
- A dedicated nodal agency, the **Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation Limited (MPSeDC)**, will oversee policy implementation.
- The policy targets key sectors, including IT, finance, engineering, human resources, and emerging technologies.
- Special emphasis is placed on **artificial intelligence (AI) and cybersecurity** to drive digital transformation.
- Cities like **Indore, Bhopal, and Jabalpur** to be developed as global business hubs.

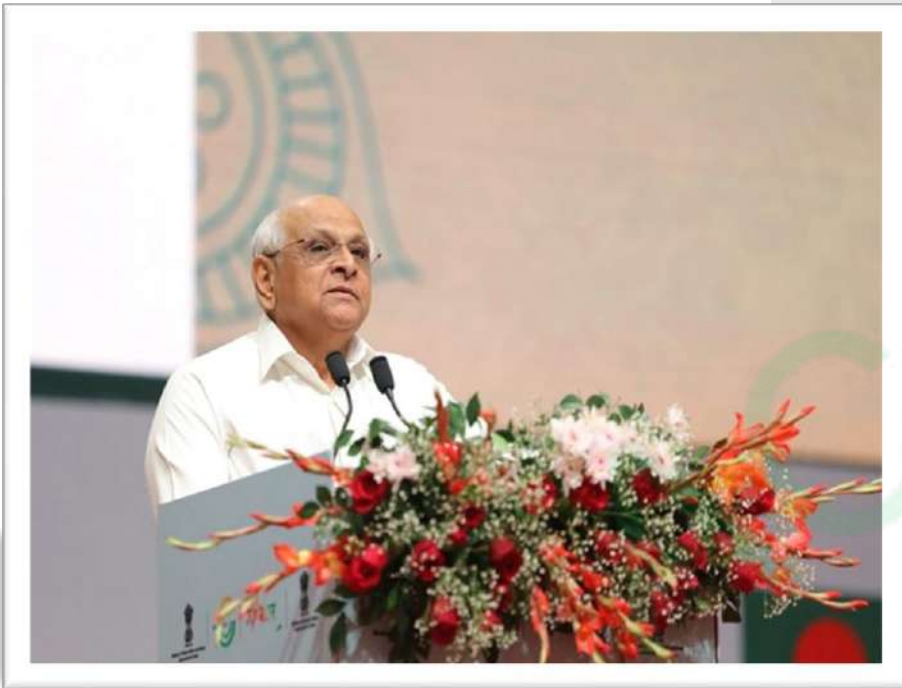
PM-AASHA Scheme Extended to Support Farmers Until 2025-26



- The Indian government has extended the **Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) scheme** until **2025-26** to support farmers.
- This integrated scheme aims to improve procurement operations, ensuring remunerative prices for farmers and controlling price volatility of essential commodities.
- The extension comes during the 15th Finance Commission cycle, which further solidifies the government's commitment to supporting the agricultural sector.
- The scheme was launched in **2018** as an umbrella scheme to ensure Minimum Support Price (MSP) to farmers, particularly for pulses, oilseeds, and copra.

- To boost domestic production and reduce import dependence, the government has allowed 100% procurement of Tur (Arhar), Urad, and Masur under PSS for the 2024-25 procurement year.
- In the Budget 2025, the government announced that this procurement measure would continue for another four years to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses.
- Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has approved the procurement of Tur (Arhar) in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh for the Kharif 2024-25 season.
- The approved procurement quantity stands at 13.22 lakh metric tonnes (LMT).
- India is the world's largest importer of pulses in the world.

Gujarat Launches G-SAFAL to Uplift 50,000 Underprivileged Women



- Gujarat government launched the G-SAFAL initiative.
- G-SAFAL (**Gujarat Scheme for Antyodaya Families for Augmenting Livelihoods**)
- This programme aims to uplift Antyodaya families, focusing on economic self-sufficiency and women's empowerment.
- The initiative targets 50,000 families across 10 districts, providing them with essential support to break the cycle of poverty.
- The G-SAFAL initiative is structured around four main pillars:
 - **Social Security, Livelihood Creation, Financial Inclusion, Social Development and Empowerment**



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Gyanesh Kumar Appointed as India's New Chief Election Commissioner



- The Central government announced the appointment of **Gyanesh Kumar** as the new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC).
- He will be replacing **Rajiv Kumar**.
- Gyanesh Kumar is a 1988-batch IAS officer from the **Kerala cadre** and is senior to the two other commissioners on the three-member panel that was led by Rajiv Kumar.
- The other commissioner on the panel is **Sukhbir Singh Sandhu**, an officer from the Uttarakhand cadre and **Vivek Joshi**.
- The government also announced the appointment of Vivek Joshi as Election Commissioner.

- **PM Modi, the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, nominated by the Prime Minister, attended the selection committee meeting.**
- **This is the first appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner under the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioner Act, 2023 which came into force in December 2023.**
- **The Election Commission of India (ECI) comprises a CEC and two Election Commissioners (ECs).**
- **Earlier, there was no law passed by Parliament for the appointment of the CEC and ECs.**
- **The President appointed the CEC on the advice of the Prime Minister.**
 - **Traditionally, the senior-most Election Commissioner was elevated to CEC.**
 - **Seniority was determined based on the order of appointment notification.**
- **The new appointment process:**
 - **The Chief Election Commissioner And Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service And Term of Office) Act, 2023 governs appointments now.**

Standard Chartered Appoints P.D. Singh as India CEO



- Standard Chartered appointed **P D Singh** as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for India, effective April 1, 2025.
- PD Singh will take over from **Zarin Daruwala**, who will retire on March 31, 2025.
- Prior to Standard Chartered, Singh was the CEO of JP Morgan Chase Bank in India, where he played a pivotal role in shaping the bank's corporate banking franchise as a founding member.
- Standard Chartered is one of India's oldest foreign banks, having operated in the country for over 160 years.

IRDAI's 'Bima Trinity' Initiative



- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has launched the Bima Trinity initiative to transform India's insurance landscape.
- IRDAI's broader goal with Bima Trinity is to ensure "**Insurance for All by 2047**".
- This vision highlights the government's commitment to increasing insurance penetration across India, which currently stands at a relatively low level compared to global standards
- The plan consists of three components: **Bima Sugam, Bima Vistaar, and Bima Vahaak.**

- **Bima Sugam** is a unified digital marketplace that aims to simplify the process of buying, servicing, and claiming insurance policies.
 - This platform will bring together different insurance companies under one digital roof, offering consumers a seamless experience.
- **Bima Vistaar** is a composite insurance product that will provide coverage for a range of needs: life, accidents, property, and hospitalization.
 - This product is designed to offer comprehensive protection under a single policy, reducing the complexity of managing multiple insurance plans.
- The third component of the Bima Trinity is **Bima Vahaak**, which is specifically designed to empower women in rural and semi-urban areas.
 - This women-centric initiative aims to increase insurance penetration by involving women as local distributors of insurance products.

Indonesia Defeats China to Win First Asia Mixed Team Title

- **Indonesia** has won the **Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships 2025** for the first time, beating hosts **People's Republic of China**
- The Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships is a biennial tournament organized by Badminton Asia to crown the best national badminton mixed team in Asia.
- It started as a standalone event for mixed teams since **2017**
- The 2025 Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships was the fourth edition held at the **Qingdao, China**
- 2023:
 - Dubai, United Arab Emirates(Host): **China(Winner)**
 - Third Place: **India**



India's First Open-Air Art Wall Museum Inaugurated at Mausam Bhawan



- India has taken a unique step in **blending science and art** with the inauguration of the country's **first Open-Air Art Wall Museum** at **Mausam Bhawan, New Delhi**.
- **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, inaugurated this innovative initiative to **mark the 150-year journey of the India Meteorological Department (IMD)**.
- The museum features 38 murals that visually narrate India's meteorological advancements, IMD's historical evolution, and its contribution to society.
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) was established in **1875** and has played a crucial role in weather forecasting, disaster management, aviation, and agriculture.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan to Launch NAKSHA for Urban Land Survey



- Union Minister for Rural Development and Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** inaugurated the **National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations (NAKSHA)** Pilot programme of the **Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development** at **Raisen, Madhya Pradesh**.
- The ₹194 crore project, fully funded by the central government, will improve **land record accuracy, support urban planning, and reduce land disputes**.
- Applicable to cities with an area < 35 sq km and population < 2 lakhs.
- The NAKSHA launch functions have also been parallelly organized in **152 ULBs** and some LSG / Revenue Department Headquarters across **26 States and 3 Union Territories**.

Thiruvalluvar Statue Inaugurated in the Philippines



- Indian Ambassador Harsh Kumar Jain unveiled the statue of noted Tamil poet and philosopher Thiruvalluvar in the Philippines
- The statue was unveiled to celebrate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and the Philippines
- India and the Philippines formally established diplomatic relations on November 26, 1949
- Thiruvalluvar was a poet and philosopher, revered as a cultural icon by Tamils.
- He is fondly called Valluvar by the Tamil people.
- His most famous work is Thirukkural, a collection of couplets on ethics, politics, economy, and love.

Kerala to launch first-ever project on collection, disposal of expired medicines



- The Kerala government is all set to start a programme to collect expired and unused medicine from homes and dispose of them scientifically.
- In a first in the country, the State Drugs Control Department is launching a project to scientifically collect expired and unused medicines from homes and dispose them.
- The project titled '**nPROUD**' (**New Programme for Removal of Unused Drugs**) inaugurated by Health Minister **Veena George**
- The medicines collected in this way will be scientifically processed at the **Kerala Enviro Infrastructure Limited (KEIL)** waste treatment plant, which is approved by the Central and State Environment Departments.

India-Japan Joint Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian 2025'

- The sixth edition of the India-Japan joint military exercise, "**Dharma Guardian 2025**," held at **Mount Fuji, Japan**, from February 25 to March 9.
- It is an annual event, conducted alternatively in **India and Japan**
- The Indian contingent comprising 120 personnel will be represented mainly by troops from a battalion of the **MADRAS Regiment** along with troops from others arms and services.
- The **Japan Ground Self Defence Force (JGSDF)** contingent, also comprising similar strength, will be represented by 34th Infantry Regiment.
- Exercise Dharma Guardian started in **2018**
- The 5th edition of the military exercise was held at the Indian Army's Mahajan Field Range, **Rajasthan**, in February-March 2024.



BAFTA Awards 2025



- The 78th British Academy Film Awards, more commonly known as the BAFTAs, was a ceremony honouring films of any nationality that were screened in British cinemas in 2024.
- The French crime musical ***Emilia Pérez*** triumphed again, defeating ***All We Imagine As Light*** for Best Film Not in the English Language.
- All We Imagine As Light was only the seventh Indian film ever nominated in the Best Film Not in the English Language category.

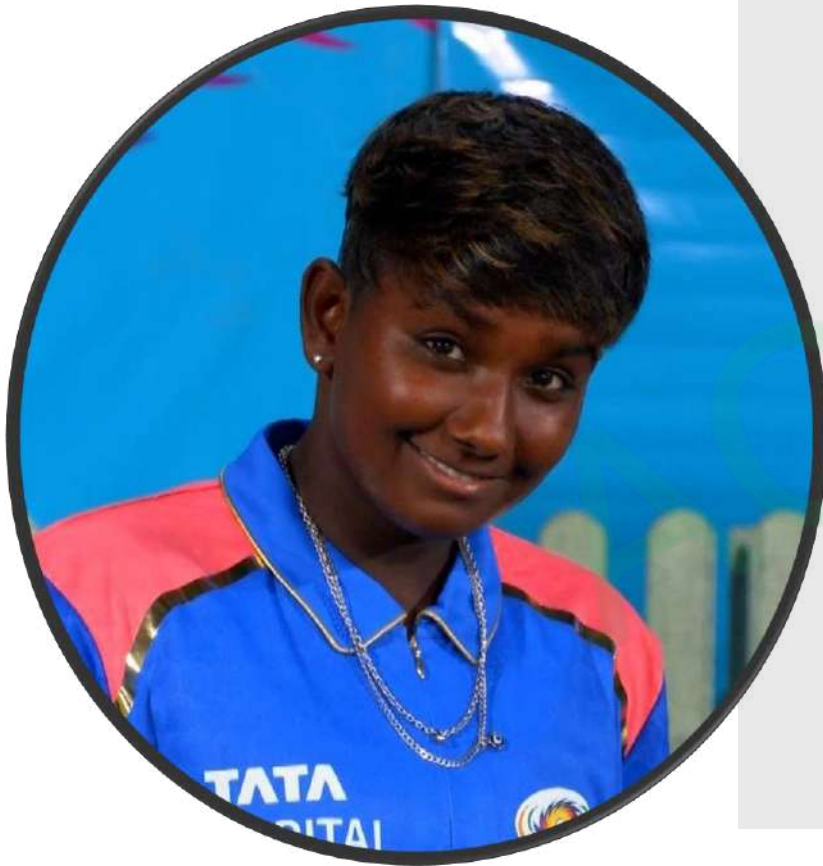
- Best Film: **Conclave**
- Best British Film: **Conclave**
- Best Actor: **Adrien Brody, The Brutalist**
- Best Actress: **Mikey Madison, Anora**
- Best Director: **Brady Corbet, The Brutalist**
- Most awards: **The Brutalist and Conclave (4)**
- Most nominations: **Conclave (12)**

Ajmer Hosts First-Ever All India Transgender Conference



- Ajmer has become the venue for the first-ever All India Kinnar Mahasammelan, a historic 10-day transgender conference held at Vaishali Nagar, Rajasthan.
- Referred to the event as the “Maha Kumbh of the Kinnar Community”
- The event, which began on February 17, 2025 is aimed at addressing issues faced by the transgender community across India.
- The conference is organized in memory of Anita Bai, the mentor of Gaddipati Saloni Nayak, a respected figure in Ajmer’s transgender community.

G Kamalini becomes youngest debutant in Women's Premier League



- **G Kamalini**, a member of India's U-19 T20 World Cup-winning team, became the youngest player to debut in the **Women's Premier League (WPL)**
- Aged **16 years 213 days**, she was included in **Mumbai Indians'** playing 11 ahead of its WPL 2025 match against Gujarat Giants
- **Shabnam Shakil** (Gujarat Giants) previously holds the record for youngest player to debut in the Women's Premier League - 16y 263d

Jharkhand Govt Prohibits Gutkha, Pan Masala for a Year



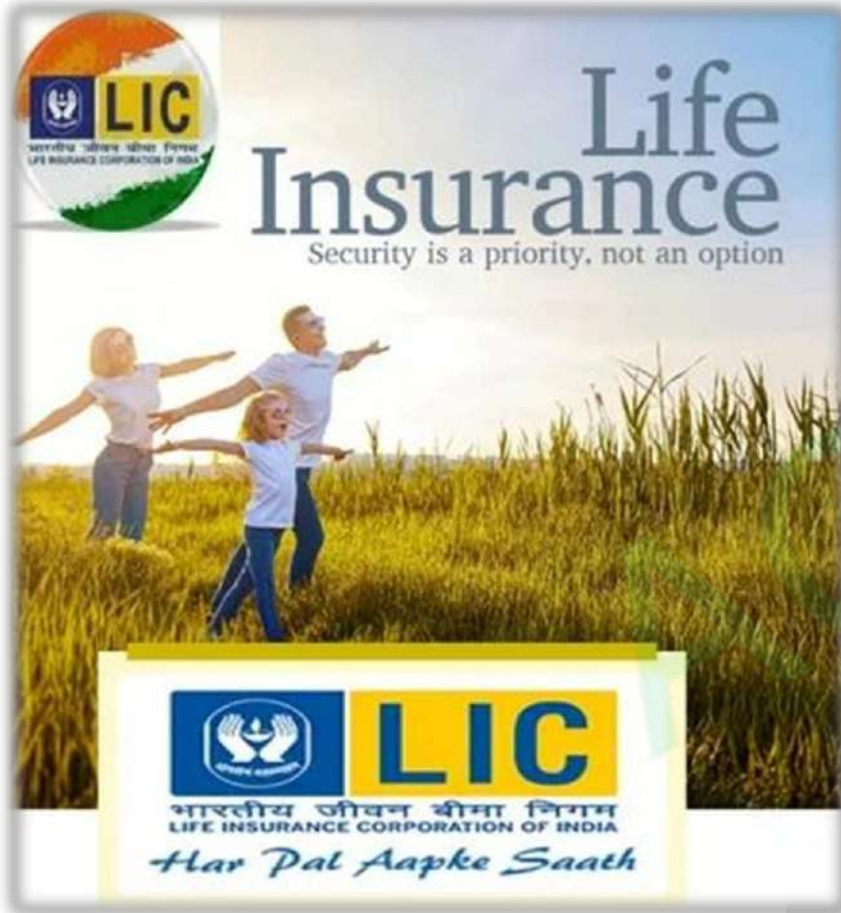
- **Jharkhand government** has imposed a complete ban on the production, distribution, sale and storage of gutkha and pan masala containing nicotine and tobacco.
- According to the notification issued by the **Jharkhand Health Department**, this ban will remain effective for the next one year from the date of issue of the notification.
- After this, the situation will be reviewed and the extension of the ban period will be considered.
- Banned as per the Section 30(2)(A) of the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**.

Rekha Gupta Sworn in as Delhi's New Chief Minister



- Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader **Rekha Gupta** was sworn-in as Delhi's chief minister
- Lieutenant Governor **Vinai Kumar Saxena** administered the oath of office to Gupta
- Gupta becomes the fourth woman chief minister of Delhi – after **Sushma Swaraj, Sheila Dikshit and Atishi**
- She was elected from the **Shalimar Bagh constituency**.
- Gupta will be the second BJP woman chief minister since **Anandiben Patel** took Gujarat's top political post in 2014.
- **Mamata Banerjee** is the only other woman chief minister in the country.

LIC Unveils 'One Man Office' to Digitally Empower Agents



- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has introduced a new digital initiative called the '**One Man Office**' (OMO) to enhance the efficiency of its agents by providing **24×7 digital services**.
- Launched on February 17, 2025, this initiative aims to support LIC's long-term vision of '**Insurance for All by 2047**' by offering seamless online tools for policy sales, customer service, and business management.
- The 'One Man Office' initiative is integrated with LIC's **ANANDA (Atma Nirbhar Agents New Business Digital Application)** platform, which was launched in 2020 to digitize new policy issuance.
- LIC Chairperson: **Siddharth Mohanty**

Manu Bhaker Wins BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2024



- Olympic medal-winner shooter Manu Bhaker has won the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award for 2024.
- This award recognizes her historic achievement of winning two bronze medals at the Paris 2024 Olympics, making her the first Indian woman to achieve this feat.
- Para-archer **Sheetal Devi** was named the Emerging Athlete of the Year
- **Mithali Raj** won the Lifetime Achievement award for her contribution to cricket.
- **Avani Lekhara**, meanwhile, was presented with the para-sportswoman of the year award for 2024.

- Conducted by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), the Indian Sportswoman of the Year or ISWOTY is an annual award which celebrates Indian female athletes and recognises their successes in various sports over the past year.
- This was the **fifth edition** of the award.
- **Golfer Aditi Ashok, para-shooter Avani Lekhara, cricketer Smriti Mandhana and wrestler Vinesh Phogat** were the other nominees for this year's award.
- Badminton star **PV Sindhu** won the award in the inaugural edition in 2019 while chess player **Koneru Humpy** was the recipient in 2020.
- Weightlifter **Mirabai Chanu**, Tokyo 2020 silver medallist, won the prestigious edition in 2021 and 2022.
- There were no BBC ISWOTY awards held in 2023.
- **Norman Pritchard** is the only other Indian athlete to win multiple medals at a single Summer Games edition.
 - He won a double silver at Paris 1900.



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IRDAI Introduces Bima-ASBA for UPI-Based Insurance Payments



- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has introduced **Bima-ASBA (Bima Applications Supported by Blocked Amount)** to simplify premium payments for life and health insurance policies.
- This initiative, effective from March 1, 2025, allows policyholders to authorize a one-time UPI mandate (OTM) to block funds in their bank accounts for premium payments.
- The amount remains in the account until the insurer accepts the policy proposal, ensuring greater transparency and security in transactions
- The premium amount is held for up to **14 days** or until the insurer makes an underwriting decision

Bengal Leads India in Bird Count for Third Consecutive Year



- The **28th Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) report**, released by Bird Count India, provides a comprehensive overview of bird species observed across India during the GBBC event.
- **West Bengal** led the count for the third consecutive year, recording the highest number of species among all participating states and union territories.
- The exercise saw birdwatchers across India document **1,068 species**.
 - Bengal topped the list with **543 species** observed
- **Darjeeling** topped Bengal's species count with 252 species observed, although this was lower than 2024's 308.
- The GBBC started in 1998, with India participating since 2013.

Mount Dukono erupts in Indonesia



- **Mount Dukono**, erupted recently, prompting safety measures
- It is located in Indonesia's **North Maluku province**.
- It is a complex volcano and one of the most active volcanoes in Indonesia in historic times.
- The volcano, situated on **Halmahera Island**
- This volcano erupted for the first time in **1933**.
- Indonesia has 130 active volcanoes, the most of any country.
 - It is part of the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, a region prone to volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.

Nagaland's Forest Project Recognized with SKOCH Award



- **Nagaland Forest Management Project (NFMP)** won the SKOCH Award 2024 at the **100th SKOCH Summit** on February 15, 2025, in New Delhi.
- The award was received by **ANGO Konyak and Venni Konyak** on behalf of Nagaland's Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (DEFCC).
- NFMP focuses on forest conservation, jhum rehabilitation, and sustainable livelihoods.
- The SKOCH Award is an award given by the SKOCH Group to recognize people, projects, and institutions that make India a better nation.

V Anantha Nageswaran's Term as Chief Economic Advisor Extended to March 2027



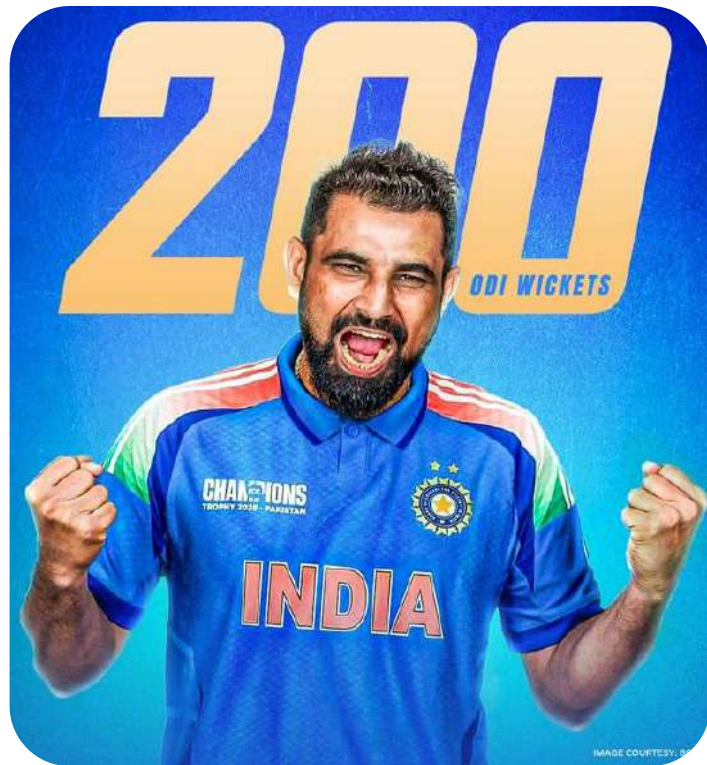
- **V Anantha Nageswaran's** Term as Chief Economic Advisor Extended to March 2027
- The extension, approved by the **appointments committee** of the union cabinet led by prime minister **Narendra Modi**, comes weeks after the Economic Survey 2024-25 projected GDP growth of 6.3% to 6.8% for the next fiscal year (FY26).
- Nageswaran, who took charge as CEA in January 2022, has a key role in shaping economic policy and drafting the annual Economic Survey.

Rohit Sharma Becomes Second Fastest to 11,000 ODI Runs



- **Rohit Sharma** has become the second-fastest batsman to reach 11,000 ODI runs, behind Virat Kohli(222 innings).
- He achieved the milestone in his **261st innings**, during India's Champions Trophy match against Bangladesh.
- This achievement also makes him the fourth Indian batter to reach this milestone(**Sachin Tendulkar – 276 Innings, Sourav Ganguly – 288 Innings**)
- Overall, he is the **10th batter** in the history of ODI cricket to achieve this landmark.

Mohammed Shami Joins Elite Club with 200 ODI Wickets



- Indian pacer **Mohammed Shami** completed 200 ODI wickets, becoming the fastest to reach the milestone in terms of balls taken.
- Shami has taken **200 ODI wickets in just 5,126 balls**, making him the fastest to do so, outdoing Mitchell Starc, who did so in 5,240 balls.
- Shami accomplished this milestone during India's ICC Champions Trophy campaign opener against **Bangladesh in Dubai**.
- In 104 ODIs, Shami has 202 wickets at an average of 23.63
- He is **India's eighth-highest ODI wicket-taker**.
- Also, he has overtaken **Zaheer Khan** to become India's leading wicket-taker in ICC ODI tournaments, with 60 wickets in total

- In terms of matches, Shami is the second fastest to 200 ODI wickets, tied with Pakistan legend Saqlain Mushtaq
- He achieved this milestone in a record number of matches, surpassing Ajit Agarkar's previous Indian record (133 matches).
- The fastest to 200 wickets in ODIs in terms of matches is Starc, who reached the landmark in 102 matches

International Mother Language Day 2025



- International Mother Language Day, observed on **February 21**, reminds us of the need to preserve linguistic diversity and protect fading languages.
 - The idea to celebrate International Mother Language Day was the initiative of **Bangladesh**.
 - The idea for this observance originated in Bangladesh, inspired by the 1952 Language Movement, where students in Dhaka protested against Urdu being imposed as the only state language of Pakistan.
 - It was approved at the 1999 UNESCO General Conference and has been observed throughout the world since **2000**.
 - International Mother Language Day 2025 theme is “**Language Matter: Silver Jubilee Celebration of International Mother Language Day**.”
- 

Indian Vishvaa Rajakumar Prodigy Wins Global Memory Championship



- **Vishvaa Rajakumar**, a 20-year-old student from Puducherry, won the Memory League World Championship 2025 by memorising 80 digits in just 13.50 seconds and 30 images in 8.40 seconds.
- Used the “**Memory Palace**” technique, an ancient Roman memorization strategy

Purnima Devi Barman Named in TIME's Women of the Year List



- Indian conservationist **Purnima Devi Barman** has made it to **Time magazine's Women of the Year 2025** list for her exceptional contribution to wildlife conservation.
- Devi Barman, from Assam, is the only Indian woman featured on the prestigious list with **12 other global honorees**.
- TIME Magazine's Women of the Year 2025 list, which honors extraordinary leaders working for a more equitable and sustainable world
- Contributed to the conservation of the endangered **Hargila bird and its wetland habitat**.
- Established the **Hargila Army**, which includes women and children.
- Due to her efforts the population of Hargila birds increased to about 1800.

Kash Patel Sworn in as the Ninth Director of the FBI, Takes Oath on Bhagavad Gita



- **Kash Patel** took oath as the ninth director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation placing his hand on the Bhagavad Gita.
- The oath ceremony was administered by the US Attorney General **Pam Bondi** in the Indian Treaty Room in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB) on the White House campus in Washington.
- He succeeded **Christopher Wray**.
- Kash Patel is not the first Indian-American to have taken his oath of office on the Gita.
- Earlier, Congressman **Suhash Subrahmanyam** also took his oath on the Gita.
- **Dan Bongino**, a former Secret Service agent and conservative commentator, as the new Deputy Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Microsoft Unveils Magma, The AI Model



- Microsoft Research has introduced a new AI model called **Magma**, which could mark a big advancement in artificial intelligence for controlling both software interfaces and robotic systems.
- Magma combines visual and language processing, allowing it to operate in both the digital and physical world
- Unlike many existing multimodal AI systems that rely on separate models to interpret data and perform actions, Magma integrates these capabilities into one system.
- This revolutionary AI model can read, interpret, and act upon real-world tasks, such as navigating applications and controlling robotic movements

Kerala Unveils Nayanamritham 2.0: AI-Driven Eye Screening



- The Government of Kerala, in collaboration with **Remidio**, has launched **Nayanamritham 2.0**, an AI-assisted program for screening chronic eye diseases.
- This initiative is the first of its kind led by a state government, aimed at improving early detection and making eye care more accessible across Kerala.
- Building on the success of **Nayanamritham 1.0**, which introduced diabetic retinopathy (DR) screening at Family Health Centers with expert interpretation by ophthalmologists at secondary and tertiary centers, Nayanamritham 2.0 takes a major leap forward.

Legendary Odissi Dancer Mayadhar Raut Passes Away at 92



- Renowned Odissi maestro Mayadhar Raut, often referred to as the “Father of Odissi dance,” passed away
- Padma Shri Award (2010)
- Sangeet Natak Akademi Tagore Ratna (2011)
- Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1985)
- Rajeev Gandhi Samman (2003)
- Biju Patnaik Samman (1993)

‘Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyaan’ Sets 5 Guinness World Records



- In a historic milestone for India, **Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyaan** achieved an unprecedented five Guinness World Records, highlighting the nation's dedication to holistic healthcare and the growing global recognition of Ayurveda
- The **National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM)**, supported by the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, concluded the first phase of the campaign on February 20, 2025, in Mumbai.
- The event marked a significant milestone in integrating Ayurveda with public health through widespread participation and data-driven healthcare insights.

1. **Most pledges** received for a health campaign in **one week**
 - 6,004,912 pledges (New global benchmark, no previous record).
2. **Most pledges** received for a health campaign in **one month**
 - 13,892,976 pledges (Surpassed previous record of 58,284 held by Cigna & CMB Life Insurance, China).
3. **Most pledges** received for a health campaign (**Overall**)
 - 13,892,976 pledges (Broke India's previous record of 569,057 held by Zifi FDC Limited).
4. **Largest online photo album of people** displaying a digital certificate
 - 62,525 photos (Surpassed previous record of 29,068 held by Accenture Solutions Private Limited, India).
5. **Largest online video album of people** saying the same sentence
 - 12,798 videos (Broke previous record of 8,992 videos held by Ghe Bharari, Rahul Kulkarni, and Neelam Edlabadkar, India).

Prime Minister Modi Inaugurates Historic Jhumoir Ensemble in Assam



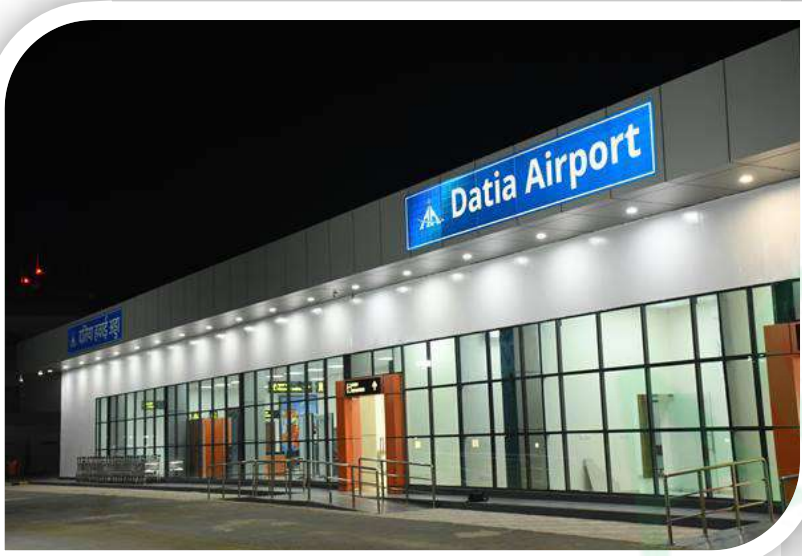
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **largest-ever Jhumoir dance performance** at Guwahati's **Sarusajai Stadium**, commemorating the 200th anniversary of Assam's tea industry.
- The event, titled '**Jhumoir Binandini 2025**,' featured over **8,000 artists** from the tea garden community, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Assam.
- Jhumoir is a traditional dance integral to Assam's tea garden workers and Adivasi communities.
- Originating in the early 19th century, it served as a medium for workers to express joy and unity after laborious days in the tea plantations.

51st Khajuraho Dance Festival 2025



- The 51st Khajuraho Dance Festival was organised in **Khajuraho, Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh** from 20 to 26 February 2025 .
- It was organised by the **Culture Department and Tourism Department of Madhya Pradesh**.
- Khajuraho Dance Festival was started in **1975** and since then it is being organised by Ustad Alauddin Khan Music and Arts Academy under the Culture Department of Madhya Pradesh Government.
- The festival was held against the backdrop of the historic temples of Khajuraho , which are on the **UNESCO World Heritage List**.
- **139 artists** created a Guinness World Record by performing classical dance for 24 hours 9 minutes 26 seconds.

Datia Airport Gets DGCA Nod, Becomes MP's 8th Airport



- **Datia** has officially emerged as Madhya Pradesh's eighth airport after receiving a licence from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- It has been categorized as a public aerodrome under the **3C/VFR category**, allowing its use for commercial operations
- Before September 2024, only five airports in Madhya Pradesh- **Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Khajuraho, and Gwalior**, were licensed for public use.
- Subsequently, on September 9, 2024, Rewa Airport received a 3C/IFR category license, and its inauguration was done by Prime Minister Modi on October 20, 2024.
- Later, on December 23, 2024, Satna Airport was granted a 2B/VFR category public aerodrome license.

Pankaj Advani Wins 2025 Asian Snooker Championship



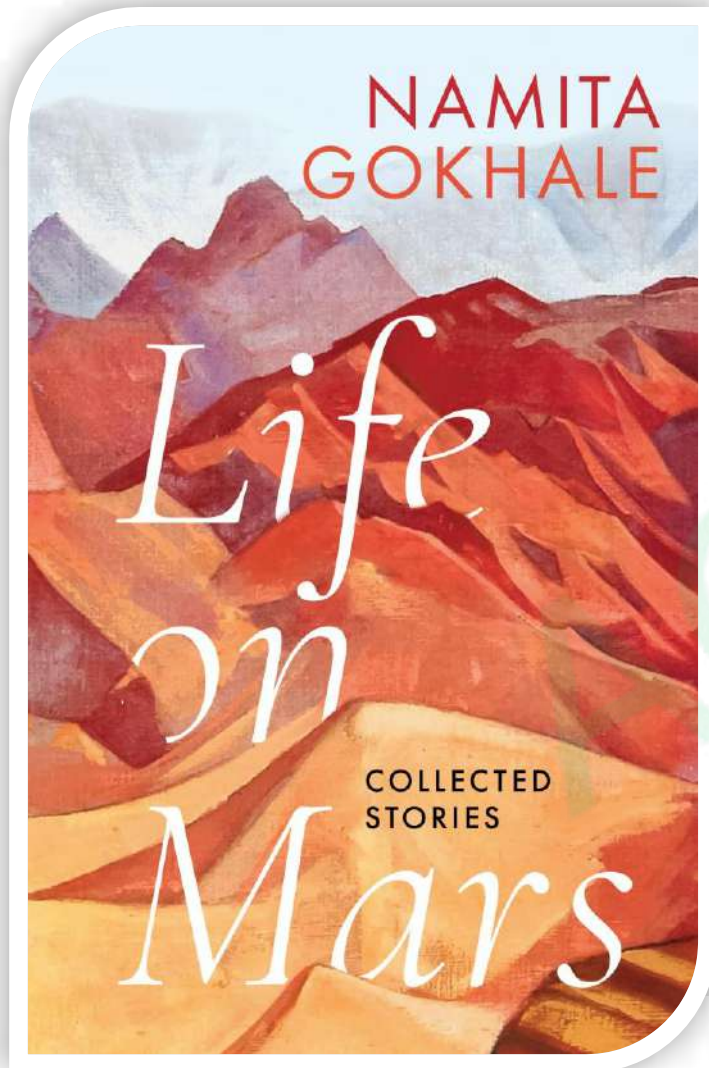
- **Pankaj Advani** has won the **2025 Asian Snooker Championship**, securing his 14th title across both billiards and snooker events.
- He defeated Iran's **Amir Sarkhosh** 4-1 in the final.
- This win adds to his impressive record, which includes five Asian snooker titles and nine Asian billiards title
- **Padma Bhushan**, India's third highest civilian honour, 2018
- **Major Dhyhan Chand Khel Ratna**, India's highest sporting honour, 2005–06
- The **Arjuna Award**, 2004

Mohun Bagan Clinch Back-to-Back ISL Winners Shield



- The 11th edition of the Indian Super League concluded with **Mohun Bagan Super Giant** beating Bengaluru FC clinch the **ISL 2024-25 title**.
- It was Mohun Bagan Super Giant's **second ISL title** after their maiden crown in 2022-23 when they were called **ATK Mohun Bagan**.
- After beating Bengaluru FC, Mohun Bagan also became the second team (**Mumbai City-2020-21**) to win the **ISL Shield and trophy in the same season** as they completed a domestic double.
- **2023–24:**
 - Mohun Bagan SG- Shield Winners
 - Mumbai City- Cup Winner

Namita Gokhale's Life on Mars: A Literary Comeback Through Stories



- Namita Gokhale's latest book, *Life on Mars: Collected Stories*, brings together 15 short stories that explore themes of love, fate, and human existence.
- Released in January 2025, this collection reflects the author's deep engagement with storytelling, blending past works with fresh narratives that highlight her evolving perspective.
- The book is structured into two distinct sections—'**Love and Other Derangements**' and '**The Mirror of the Mahabharata**'—each offering a different lens on relationships, mythology, and human emotions.
- She awarded the 2021 Sahitya Akademi Award for *Things to Leave Behind*

China Successfully Launches ChinaSat-10R from Xichang



- China successfully launched the **ChinaSat-10R (Zhongxing-10R)** communications satellite into geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO) on February 22, 2025.
- The satellite, which replaces the aging **ChinaSat-10**, was carried by a **Long March 3B rocket** from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center.
- This mission marks China's continued efforts to enhance its satellite communication infrastructure, particularly in support of sectors like transportation, emergency response, energy, forestry, and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- The **China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC)**, China's state-owned space contractor, confirmed the successful launch.

International Booker 2025: Kannada Book in Historic Longlist



- The 2025 International Booker Prize longlist features 13 books- 11 novels and two short story collections—selected by this year’s judging panel, chaired by Max Porter
- Kannada author Banu Mushtaq’s short story collection *Heart Lamp*, translated into English by **Deepa Bhasthi**, has been longlisted for the esteemed International Booker Prize 2025.
- This is the **first time a Kannada work** has been featured on the longlist, which honors outstanding translated fiction.
- *Tomb of Sand* by Geetanjali Shree (Winner, 2022) – First Hindi novel to win.
- *Pyre* by Perumal Murugan (Longlist, 2023) – Tamil novel.



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CURRENT AFFAIRS

2025

MARCH 6

NASA and SpaceX to Launch Athena to Moon



- A robotic moon lander, **Athena**, launched into space, marking the second lunar mission for Texas-based **Intuitive Machines**.
- Intuitive Machines launched its second lunar mission, the Athena moon lander, from **NASA's Kennedy Space Center**.
- This mission follows the company's historic achievement as the **first private entity to successfully land on the moon**
- SpaceX successfully launched the IM-2 mission aboard a **Falcon 9 rocket**, carrying the Athena lunar lander and **NASA's Lunar Trailblazer** to the Moon's South Pole.
- Athena will carry scientific instruments to **study the chemical composition of lunar soil** and search for subsurface water in the Moon's south polar region.

- It is part of NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) program, which fosters private-sector lunar exploration.
- The Athena lander will attempt to establish the first cellular network on the moon
- Nokia Bell Labs developed an ultra-compact, low-power lunar communication system.
- Launch Vehicle: **SpaceX Falcon 9**
- Launch Date & Time: **February 26, 2025,**
- Launch Site: **NASA's Kennedy Space Center, Florida**

PRAKRITI 2025



- The **PRAKRITI 2025 (Promoting Resilience, Awareness, Knowledge, and Resources for Integrating Transformational Initiatives)**, the International Conference on Carbon Markets, to discuss carbon market challenges and opportunities.
- Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs: **Shri Manohar Lal**
- The first International Conference on Carbon Markets, Prakriti 2025, was held in **New Delhi on February 24-25, 2025**, marking a crucial moment in India's climate action strategy.
- Organized by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** under the Ministry of Power, the event brought together over 600 delegates
- India ranks **2nd in global CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) project registrations.**

Saras Aajeevika Mela 2025



- Union Minister for Rural Development **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** inaugurated the Saras Aajeevika Mela at **Noida, Uttar Pradesh**
- Saras Aajeevika Mela 2025 is being organized from **21st February to 10th March 2025**, primarily to showcase the **craft and arts of rural India**.
- For the 5th time, the famous Saras Aajeevika Mela 2025 is being organized by the **Ministry of Rural Development** with the support of the **National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR)** with the theme of tradition, art, and culture and “***Developing Export Potential of Lakhpati SHG Didis***”.
- This initiative, started by the Ministry of Rural Development, aims to help artisans and craftsmen to **promote their livelihoods and inclusive growth**.

- The Saras Aajeevika Mela 2025 is featuring excellent displays of various state handlooms, sarees, and dress materials.
- These include:
 - Andhra Pradesh's **Kalamkari**, Assam's **Mekhla Chador**, Bihar's Cotton and Silk, Chhattisgarh's **Kosa Saree**, Gujarat's **Bharat Gunthan and Patchwork**, Jharkhand's **Tasar Silk** and Cotton, **Chanderi and Bagh Print** from Madhya Pradesh, **Eri Products** from Meghalaya, **Tasar and Bandha** from Odisha, **Kanchipuram** from Tamil Nadu, **Pochampally** from Telangana, **Pashmina** from Uttarakhand, **Kantha, Batik Print, Tant, and Baluchari** from West Bengal.

Record-Breaking Mass Nesting of Olive Ridley Turtles at Rushikulya

Beach



- Nearly 700,000 **Olive Ridley turtles** have laid eggs at the **Rushikulya rookery in Odisha's** Ganjam district during the eight-day arribada (Spanish for mass nesting) that concluded on February 23, 2025.
- To be exact, **6,98,718 Olive Ridley turtles** have laid eggs on the beach till February 23, surpassing the record set in 2023 of 637,000
- This marks a record-breaking number, especially significant as the endangered marine species had skipped nesting at the beach the previous year.
- The highest-ever recorded mass nesting in India was in **2001**, when approximately **741,000 turtles laid eggs** at **Gahirmatha**, another location in Odisha's Kendrapara district

The Awantipora Police in Jammu and Kashmir registered its first e-FIR via email



- The **Jammu and Kashmir** Police filed its first e-FIR at Police Station advancing digital policing, Submitted via email
- This initiative follows the Law Commission's recommendations for e-FIRs in certain cognizable offenses.
- This e-FIR was registered following a complaint submitted by Mushtaq Ahmed Bhat against Adil Ahmad Bhat and Bilal Ahmad Bhat, alleging assault of his family.
- The concept of e-FIR (Electronic First Information Report) in India, which allows reporting crimes online, was introduced through the **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) of 2023,**

Madhya Pradesh Now Home to India's Highest Vulture Population



- **Madhya Pradesh** has reported the highest number of vulture populations in the country after the conclusion of the first phase of the 2025 vulture census.
- According to the state Forest Department, the total number of vultures in the state was **12,981**.
- In the last census, there were 10,845 vultures in the state.
- The second phase of the vulture census will be conducted on 29th April 2025 by the state Forest Department.
- The Forest Department has been conducting the vulture census in the state since **2016**.
- In 2016 there were 6 thousand 999 vultures in the state.

Friedrich Merz Ascends as Germany's New Chancellor



- **Friedrich Merz**, leader of Germany's conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU), is set to take the reins of the country's government following a national election that saw his party secure the largest share of the vote, per the exit polls.
- He will replace **Olaf Scholz**
- At 69, he will be the oldest to hold the office since Konrad Adenauer.

Military Exercise 'Jal-Thal-Raksha 2025' Held at Bet Dwarka

- Jal-Thal-Raksha 2025', a military exercise, was conducted at **Bet Dwarka, Gujarat** by the Indian Army.
- It involved the **11 Infantry Division (Ahmedabad), 31 Infantry Brigade (Jamnagar), Coast Guard, and Marine Police.**
- The exercise aimed to enhance coordination between defense forces, paramilitary units, and district authorities. It focused on combat readiness for terrorist attacks or war scenarios.



Indian private space-tech company Pixxel launched India's first private satellite constellation 'Firefly'



- **Pixxel**, a Bengaluru-based space-tech startup, has launched India's first private earth imaging satellite constellation, '**Firefly**'.
- The high-resolution hyperspectral satellite constellation provides **detailed data about Earth's surface**, aiding in environmental change monitoring and resource management.
- The constellation currently consists of three satellites, with plans to launch more later this year.
- First three satellites of the Firefly constellation were successfully launched aboard SpaceX's **Transporter-12 mission** from Vandenberg Space Force Base, California.
- Satellite Constellation is a network of identical artificial satellites with the same purpose and shared control, designed to work as a system.

Tuhin Kanta Pandey Appointed as 11th SEBI Chairperson



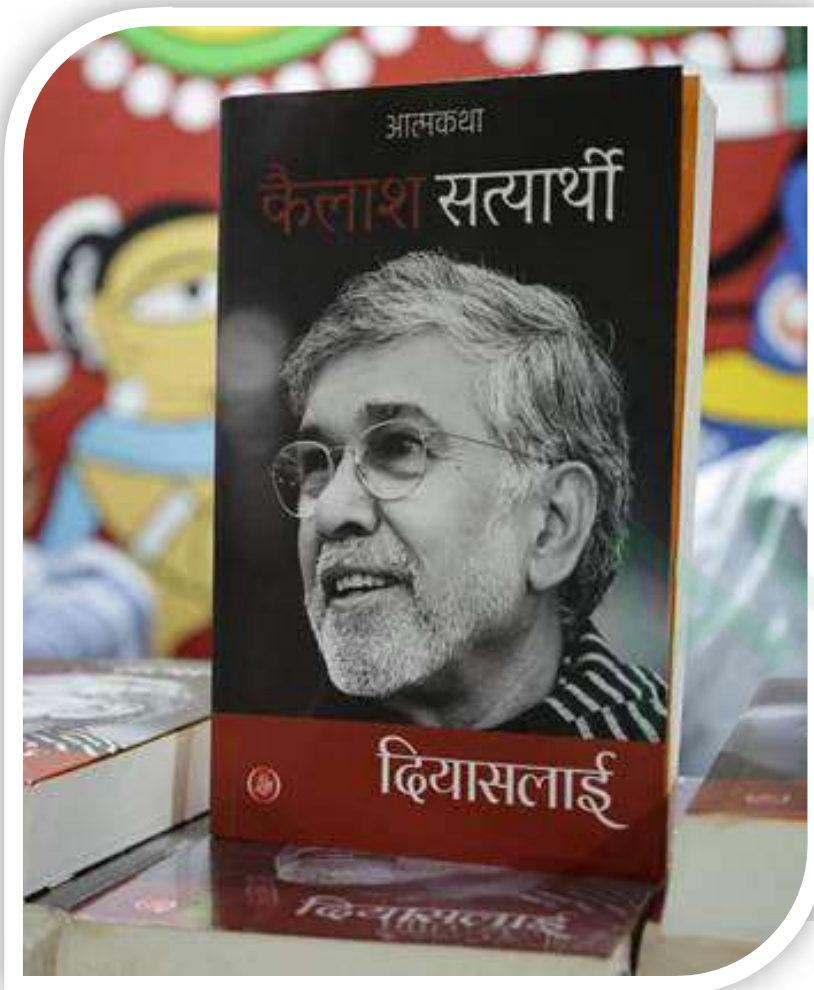
- **Tuhin Kanta Pandey** took over as the 11th chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India
- Pandey's appointment comes when the Indian capital markets face significant challenges, with foreign institutional investors (FII) withdrawing over ₹1 trillion since the beginning of 2025.
- Pandey, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the **Odisha cadre**, was appointed Sebi chairperson succeeding **Madhabi Puri Buch**, whose tenure ended on 28 February.
- Pandey's appointment is set for an initial period of **three years**.

National Science Day 2025



- National Science Day is celebrated every year on **28th February** to commemorate the discovery of the '**Raman Effect**' made by the eminent physicist **Sir C.V. Raman** while working in the laboratory of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Kolkata.
- For this discovery, he was awarded the **Nobel Prize in 1930**.
- The first celebration took place on **February 28, 1987**, marking the beginning of a tradition that continues to inspire generations.
- The theme for this year is "**Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership in Science & Innovation for VIKSIT BHARAT.**"

Kailash Satyarthi's Autobiography 'Diyaslai' – A Literary Exploration at IGNCA



- The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) organized a dedicated discussion on Nobel Peace Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi's autobiography "**Diya Slaai**" in collaboration with the **Satyarthi Movement for Global Compassion**.
- The chief guest, former President Ram Nath Kovind, described Kailash Satyarthi's autobiography "Diya Slaai" not just as a book, but as a movement dedicated to the fundamental rights of children.
- Through his autobiography "Diya Slaai", Kailash Satyarthi identified compassion as the solution to the world's problems.
- Kailash Satyarthi was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize in 2014** for his struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education.

Russian Chess Grandmaster Boris Spassky Passes Away at 88



- **Boris Vasilievich Spassky** was a Russian chess grandmaster who was the **tenth World Chess Champion**, holding the title from **1969 to 1972**.
- Spassky is best remembered for his duel with US player **Bobby Fischer** in 1972, which was emblematic of the confrontation between east and west, and was later referred to as “**the match of the century**”.

Sarbananda Sonowal Unveils 'One Nation-One Port' Initiative



- The Union ministry of ports, shipping and waterways (MoPSW) **Sarbananda Sonowal** announced a series of initiatives, including '**One Nation: One Port Process (ONOP)**', aimed at modernizing India's maritime infrastructure, strengthening its global trade presence and promoting sustainability.
- These measures are expected to play a vital role in making India a global maritime powerhouse while aligning with the vision of **Atmanirbhar Bharat and a Developed India by 2047**.
- Alongside ONOP, Sarbananda Sonowal also launched **Sagar Ankalan**, which includes the Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI) for 2023-24.

Senior Advocate Manan Kumar Mishra Re-Elected as Chairman of Bar Council of India



- The Bar Council of India (BCI) announced that **Manan Kumar Mishra**, Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of India and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), has been re-elected unopposed as the Chairman of the Bar Council of India for a historic **seventh consecutive term**.

97th Academy Awards Winners



- The 97th Academy Awards ceremony took place on **March 2, 2025**, at **Los Angeles**
- Film '**Anora**' by Sean Baker secured the most 5 Oscars including Best Film, Best Director, Best Actress, Best Original Screenplay, and Best Film Editing.
- The Awards were established in 1929 are prestigious annual honors recognizing excellence in the global film industry.
- They are presented by the **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS)**,

- Best Picture: **Anora**
- Best Actor: **Adrien Brody** (The Brutalist)
- Best Actress: **Mikey Madison** (Anora)
- Most Nominations: **Emilia Pérez** (13 nominations)
- Biggest Winner: **Anora** (5 Oscars)
- Best Director: **Sean Baker** (Anora)
- Best International Feature Film: **I'm Still Here**
- Best Animated Feature Film: **Flow**

Virat Kohli Becomes Seventh Indian Cricketer to Play 300 ODIs



- **Virat Kohli** achieved another milestone by playing his 300th One Day International (ODI) match for India.
- He is now the **seventh Indian cricketer** to play 300 or more ODIs.
- The list is led by **Sachin Tendulkar**, who played 463 matches, followed by MS Dhoni with 347 matches
- Virat Kohli has reached this historic milestone during the Champions Trophy match against **New Zealand** in Dubai

World Wildlife Day 2025



- On 20 December 2013 at the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), March 3 was declared United Nations World Wildlife Day (WWD).
- This day holds significance as the day that the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was signed in 1973.
- The proposal was initiated by **Thailand**, urging global attention toward the urgent need for wildlife protection
- In 2025, the day will be celebrated under the theme: “**Wildlife Conservation**

Finance: Investing in People and Planet”

IRCTC, IRFC Upgraded to Navratna



- The centre has upgraded **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** and **Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)** to **Navratna status**.
- The move allows the two central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) to make discretionary investments up to Rs 1,000 crore or 15% of their net worth.
- Both come under the administrative control of the **Railway Ministry**
- **IRCTC is the 25th and IRFC is 26th Navratna among CPSEs.**

- Navratna is a prestigious classification awarded to high-performing CPSEs, providing them with greater investment autonomy and operational flexibility.
- The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) under the Ministry of Finance grants Navratna status to eligible CPSEs.
- Eligibility Criteria for Navratna Status: Be a Miniratna-I CPSE with a positive net worth.
 - Achieve an “Excellent” or “Very Good” MoU rating in at least three of the last five years.
 - Score 60+ points on key financial indicators such as net profit, net worth, and manpower cost.
 - Have at least four independent directors on its board.

Maharatna CPSEs

- 1. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- 2. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
- 3. Coal India Limited
- 4. GAIL India Limited
- 5. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
- 6. Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- 7. NTPC Limited
- 8. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited,
- 9. Power Finance Corporation
- 10. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited
- 11. Steel Authority of India Limited
- 12. Rural Electrification Corporation Limited
- 13. Oil India Ltd
- 14. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

Navratna CPSEs

1. Bharat Electronics Limited
2. Container Corporation of India Limited
3. Engineers India Limited
4. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited
5. National Aluminium Company Limited
6. National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited
7. Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited
8. NMDC Limited
9. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited
10. Shipping Corporation of India Limited
11. Rail Vikas Nigam Limited
12. ONGC Videsh Ltd
13. Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited
14. IRCON
15. RITES
16. National Fertilizers Limited
17. Central Warehousing Corporation
18. Housing & Urban Development Corporation Limited
19. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited
20. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
21. Railtel Corporation of India Limited
22. Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) Ltd.
23. NHPC Limited
24. SJVN Limited
25. Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Limited
26. Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited

India's First World Peace Center Inaugurated in Gurugram



- India's first World Peace Center was inaugurated in **Gurugram, Haryana**, by Ahimsa World University under the guidance of Jain **Acharya Lokesh**.
- The inauguration was attended by **former President Ram Nath Kovind** and other prominent leaders.
- The center aims to be a hub for peace education, environmental preservation, equality, and social unity

Yamandú Orsi Sworn in as Uruguay's President



- **Yamandú Orsi** was sworn in as Uruguay's President on March 1, 2025
- This marking the return of the leftist **Broad Front coalition** after a five-year conservative rule.
- A former history teacher and mayor, Orsi has pledged to strengthen Uruguay's social safety net while addressing economic stagnation.

Ajay Seth Takes Additional Charge as Revenue Secretary



- Economic Affairs Secretary **Ajay Seth** was given additional charge of the post of Secretary, Department of Revenue, according to a Personnel Ministry order
- The appointment was necessitated following the transition of **Tuhin Kanta Pandey**, the former Revenue Secretary, to his new role as the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- The Revenue Secretary plays a pivotal role in formulating and implementing tax policies, overseeing the functioning of tax authorities, and managing revenue collection mechanisms.

Vidarbha Clinch Their Third Ranji Trophy Title in Seven Seasons



- **Vidarbha** were crowned Ranji Trophy champions for the third time in seven seasons after a dominant performance in the 2024-25 edition final against **Kerala** in Nagpur.
- Led by **Akshay Wadkar**, the team completed the formality, after the big final at Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium ended in a draw, securing victory based on their first-innings lead.
- Their previous Ranji Trophy victories came in 2017-18 and 2018-19, and after narrowly missing out last season against Mumbai, they made a strong comeback this year.
- 2023–24: **Mumbai**

Oldest Test Cricketer Passes Away at 98 in South Africa



- Ron Draper, the oldest surviving Test cricketer, passed away in Gqeberha on February 25, 2025, at the age of 98 years and 63 days.
- A top-order batsman and occasional wicketkeeper, Draper represented South Africa in two Test matches against Australia in 1950.
- **Neil Harvey** (Australia): Now the oldest living Test cricketer at 96 years old.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

2025

APRIL 1

PM Modi Inaugurates Vantara, an Animal Rescue and Conservation Centre in Gujarat



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated **Vantara**, an advanced animal rescue, conservation, and rehabilitation center in Gujarat's Jamnagar district.
- The programme claims to have since "rescued over 200 elephants, and thousands of other animals, reptiles and birds from unsafe situations, including rhinos, leopards and crocodiles
- Vantara is managed under the direction of Mukesh Dhirubhai Ambani.
- Vantara received the '**Prani Mitra** National Award' in the corporate category from the Animal Welfare Board of India in 2025.
 - This award is presented by the Government of India to recognize contributions in the field of animal welfare

India's First River Dolphin Population Survey



- India's first-ever riverine dolphin estimation report has recorded **6,327 dolphins** across 28 rivers in eight states.
- **Uttar Pradesh** recorded the highest number, followed by Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam.
- The dolphin population survey, conducted under **Project Dolphin**, spanned 8,500 kilometers across the **Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Indus river** systems over two years.
- In India, Ganges river dolphins inhabit the **Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna river** system and its tributaries, while a small population of Indus river dolphins resides in the Indus River system.

- Overall river dolphin population in India is 6327 including Gangetic River dolphins (6324) and **Indus River Dolphins (only 3)**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the report during his visit to **Gir National Park in Gujarat**, where he chaired the 7th meeting of the National Board for Wildlife.
- The survey, conducted from **2021 to 2023**, was a joint effort by the Wildlife Institute of India, state forest departments of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Jharkhand, and Rajasthan, and non-profit organizations including Aaranyak, World Wildlife Fund, Turtle Survival Alliance, and Wildlife Trust of India.
- **Project Dolphin**: Launched by PM Modi on August 15, 2020, to enhance conservation efforts.

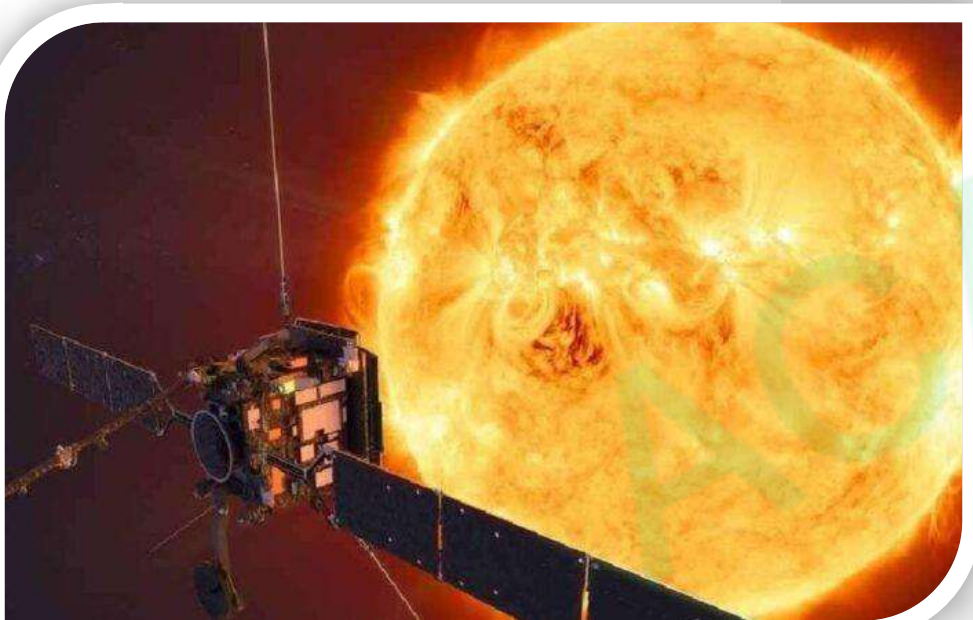
Supreme Court Advocates for Disability Rights as Fundamental



- The Supreme Court has ruled that visually impaired candidates can participate in judicial service exams, affirming that the right against disability-based discrimination under the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016**, should be treated as a fundamental right.
- The recent ruling came while deciding petitions concerning the **Madhya Pradesh Judicial Service Examination Rules, 1994**, and **Rajasthan Judicial Service Rules, 2010**, aligning them with the RPwD Act.
- **Rule 6A** of the MP Judicial Service Rules, 1994 was **struck down** as it excluded visually impaired candidates despite their educational qualifications.

- Any exclusion of visually impaired candidates from judicial services violates the **Constitutional right of equality (Article 14) and non-discrimination (Article 15).**
- **Suchita Srivastava v. Chandigarh Administration, 2009:** The Supreme Court upheld the reproductive rights of a mentally retarded woman.
- **Govt. of India v. Ravi Prakash Gupta, 2010:** The Supreme Court ruled that predefined job criteria cannot be used to deny reservations to visually impaired candidates, ensuring fair appointments.
- **Om Rathod vs Director General of Health Services Case, 2024:** SC ruled that the functional assessment of a candidate's abilities should take precedence over rigid eligibility criteria.

Aditya-L1 Captures First-Ever Image of a Solar Flare ‘Kernel’



- The **Aditya-L1 mission** has captured the first-ever image of a solar flare '**kernel**' in the lower solar atmosphere using the Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT) payload.
- Solar flares are massive explosions on the Sun's atmosphere that release energy, light, and high-speed particles into space, often linked to coronal mass ejections (CMEs).
- **Aditya-L1** is India's first space-based solar observatory, designed to study the Sun from the Lagrange Point 1 (L1) in a halo orbit.
- Launch Date: **September 2, 2023**
- This is ISRO's second astronomy observatory-class mission after **AstroSat (2015)**.

Ajay Bhadoo Appointed CEO of Government e Marketplace (GeM)



- The Union government has appointed Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce **Ajay Bhadoo**, as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Government e Marketplace (GeM)** with effect from March 3, 2025.
- GeM Platform is India's largest e-marketplace for government procurement.
- **Gross Merchandise Value (GMV)** of Rs 4.58 lakh crore, with 28.65% YoY growth.
- Startups have fulfilled orders worth **Rs 35,950 crore**.
- Women entrepreneurs make up 8% of the seller base.

Sharath Kamal to Retire from Table Tennis



- Indian table tennis legend **Sharath Kamal Achanta** has officially retired from professional competition after more than two decades of representing India on the global stage.
- His final match was at the **WTT Star Contender Chennai 2025**, in his home city.
- Sharath Kamal is also the **first Indian to win a singles gold medal at the Commonwealth Games at Melbourne 2006**.
- 2004: **Arjuna Award**
- 2019: **Padma Shri**
- 2022: **Khel Ratna Award**

Khelo India Para Games 2025



- The Khelo India Para Games 2025, the **second edition** of the multi-sport para event under the Indian government's Khelo India initiative, was held in **New Delhi from March 20 to 27.**
- Mascot Name: **'Ujjwala'**
- **Haryana** finished on top of the KIPG 2025 medal tally with 34 gold medals.
 - Tamil Nadu (28 golds) and Uttar Pradesh (23 golds) finished second and third, respectively, in the overall standings.
- Medal events were held across six sports - **para archery, para athletics, para badminton, para shooting, para table tennis and para powerlifting.**

Anju Rathi Rana Appointed As The First Woman Law Secretary



- India has reached a significant milestone in its legal and administrative history with the appointment of **Anju Rathi Rana** as the country's first woman law secretary.
- A distinguished Indian Legal Service (ILS) officer, Rana's appointment marks a historic moment in the **Ministry of Law and Justice**.
- The position of Law Secretary, officially known as the Secretary, Legal Affairs, has long been held by men.
- Prior to her appointment, the post had been vacant for several months, following the tenure of Niten Chandra, an IAS officer, who previously held the position.

India Ranks 4th in Global Wealth Rankings



- According to the **19th Wealth Report 2025**, India has emerged as the **fourth largest global wealth hub** in the world after the **United States of America, China, and Japan**.
- The Wealth Report is released by the London, United Kingdom-based real estate consultancy firm **Knight Frank**.
- The number of High Net-Worth Individuals (HNWIs) in the country has risen from 80,686 in the last year to 85,698 in 2024, a growth of 6 percent.
- The report expects the HNWI population in India to increase to 93,753 by 2028.

Bangalore City University to be Renamed After Dr. Manmohan Singh



- Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that **Bengaluru City University** will be renamed after the late **Dr Manmohan Singh**.
- This will be the first university in the country to bear Singh's name, who passed away on December 26, 2024.
- The announcement regarding the state-run Bengaluru City University (BCU), formerly known as Bengaluru Central University, came as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah presented his record **16th budget in the Legislative Assembly on March 7, 2025**.
- The university, which was established in 2017 and renamed in 2020, is now set for another rechristening under the Congress-led government.

Punjab Launches 'Project Hifazat' to Strengthen Women and Child

Safety



- To enhance the safety and protection of women and children affected by violence, Punjab's Social Security, Women, and Child Development Minister, Dr. Baljit Kaur, officially launched 'Project Hifazat'
- This initiative aims to provide immediate assistance to victims through an integrated 24x7 helpline, coordinated support from various departments, and on-ground response mechanisms.
- Under '**Mission Shakti**' and '**Mission Vatsalya**', the project establishes two dedicated helplines:
 - **Women Helpline: 181** – To address cases of domestic violence, workplace harassment, and other crimes against women.
 - **Child Helpline: 1098** – To provide assistance to children facing abuse, exploitation, or any form of violence.

LIC Ranked World's 3rd Strongest Insurance Brand



- LIC has secured **the third position** among the strongest insurance brands globally, earning a BSI score of 88/100, according to the Brand Finance Insurance 100 (2025) report.
- The brand value of LIC remains stable at **\$9.8 billion**.
- **Poland-based PZU** topped the rankings with a BSI score of 94.4, followed by **China Life Insurance** in second place with 93.5.
- LIC also holds the **12th position in brand value among global insurers**, while **SBI Life ranks 76th**, making them the only two Indian insurers in the top 100.

DPIIT and Mercedes-Benz India Sign MoU to Boost Manufacturing, Road Safety, and Sustainability



- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and **Mercedes-Benz India Private Limited** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to advance India's manufacturing ecosystem, road safety, and environmental sustainability.
- The partnership aims to support startups, innovators, and entrepreneurs in achieving technological excellence and fostering societal development.
- The MoU was signed by Director, DPIIT, **Dr. Sumeet Kumar Jarangal** and Managing Director, Mercedes-Benz India, **Shri Santosh Iyer**, in the presence of senior officials from both organizations.

Rajeev Shukla Replaces Jay Shah in ACC Leadership



- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the appointment of **Rajeev Shukla** and **Ashish Shelar** to prominent positions within the Asian Cricket Council (ACC).
- Shukla, the BCCI vice-president and Congress Rajya Sabha MP, will represent India on the ACC's Board of Directors.
- Meanwhile, Ashish Shelar, former treasurer of the BCCI and a senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has been appointed as an Executive Board Member of the continental body.

- The announcement was made by BCCI Secretary **Devajit Saikia**

Madhav National Park Declared as India's 58th Tiger Reserve



- **Madhav National Park in Madhya Pradesh** has been officially declared as India's **58th Tiger Reserve**.
- The announcement was made by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, marking another milestone in the country's ongoing efforts to protect and conserve its rich biodiversity.
- With this recognition, Madhya Pradesh now boasts nine tiger reserves, further solidifying its reputation as the 'Tiger State' of India.
- The newly designated Madhav Tiger Reserve is located in the Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh, within the Gwalior-Chambal region.
- It was designated a National Park in **1958**.

- India has been at the forefront of global tiger conservation efforts through initiatives like Project Tiger, which was launched in 1973.
- With the addition of Madhav Tiger Reserve, India now has 58 tiger reserves under the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country has witnessed significant progress in wildlife protection, with India currently holding over 75% of the world's tiger population.
- The latest milestone reinforces the government's commitment to protecting endangered species and preserving natural habitats.
- In December last year, **Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh** was declared the country's 57th tiger reserve after receiving in-principle approval from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change .

Mark Carney Appointed as Canada's New Prime Minister



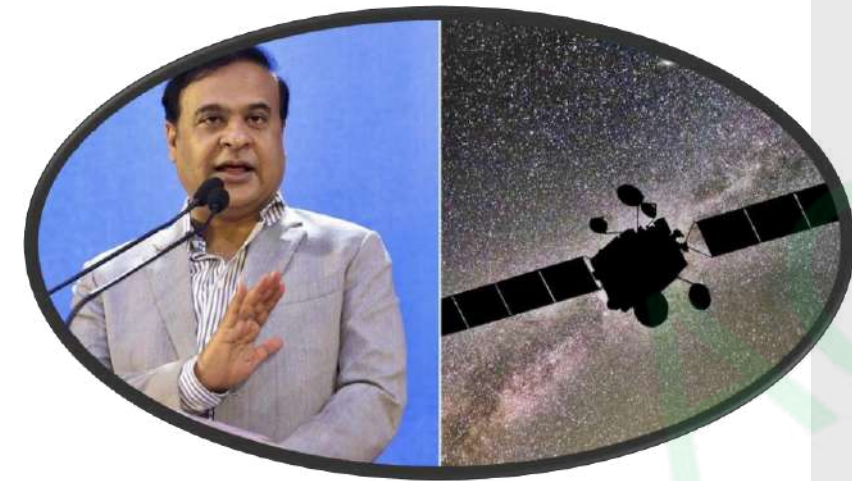
- Canadian Prime Minister **Mark Carney** announced a major Cabinet shakeup, including naming Indian-origin Anita Anand as the new foreign minister, as he shapes a newly re-elected Liberal government.
- He won the leadership election for Canada's Liberal Party, with 86 percent of the vote.
- He take over as Canada's Prime Minister, following Justin Trudeau's resignation in January.

India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR-XII



- The 12th edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise **KHANJAR-XII** take place in Kyrgyzstan from 10 March to 23 March 2025.
- Since its inception in 2011, Ex KHANJAR XII has evolved into an annual training event.
- The alternating venues between India and Kyrgyzstan reflect the unique dimension of the thriving strategic relationship.
- The last edition of the same exercise was conducted in India in **January 2024**.
- The Indian contingent is represented by troops from **The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)** and the Kyrgyzstan contingent is represented by **Kyrgyz Scorpion Brigade**.

Assam Government to Launch Its Own Satellite 'ASSAMSAT'



- Assam state government has announced plans to launch its own satellite, ASSAMSAT, to bolster data access for crucial socio-economic initiatives and enhance border security.
- The satellite is envisioned to provide dedicated services for agriculture, disaster management, infrastructure development, and security operations.
- This initiative marks a historic milestone, as Assam becomes the **first Indian state to launch its own satellite.**
- The ASSAMSAT satellite will be developed in collaboration with **IN-SPACE (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center)** and **ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation).**

India Signs \$248 Million Deal with Russia for Advanced Battle Tank

Engines



- The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Rosoboronexport (RoE), Russian Federation worth **\$ 248 million for procurement of 1000 HP Engines for T-72 Tanks in fully formed.**
- The T-72 tank, first introduced in India in the **1970s**
- Equipping the existing fleet of T-72 Tanks with 1000 HP Engine will enhance the battle field mobility and offensive capability of Indian Army.
- India is the world's largest arms importer and Russia has been its top defence supplier for decades,

Commonwealth Games Federation Rebrands as 'Commonwealth Sport'

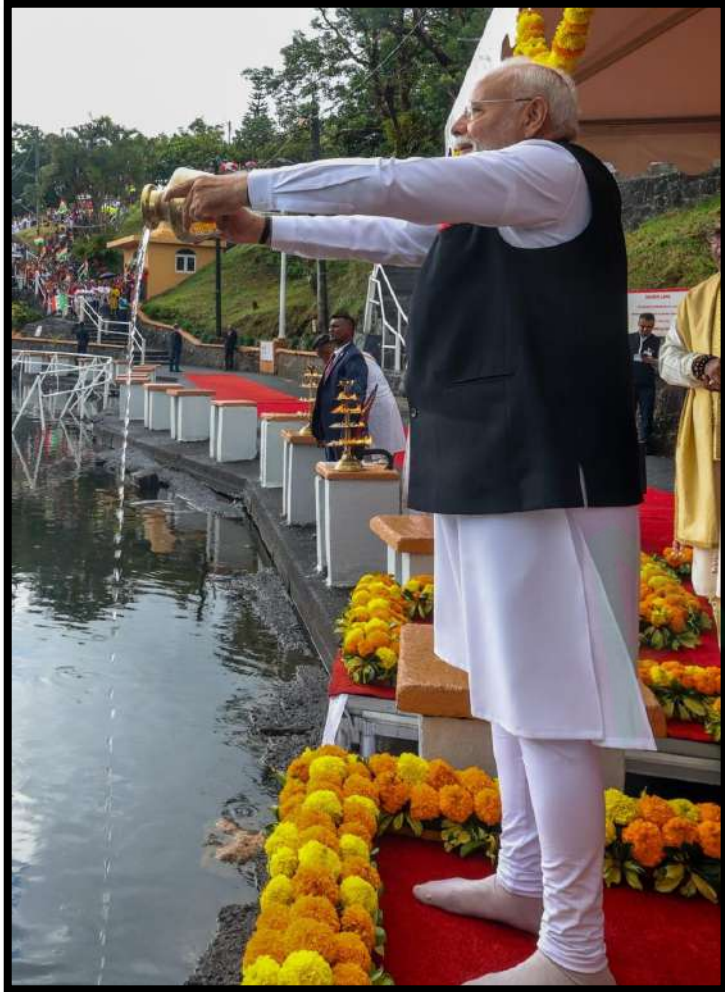
on Commonwealth Day 2025



- Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) has announced that it will now be known as **Commonwealth Sport**.
- This decision was officially unveiled on March 10, 2025, in celebration of Commonwealth Day
- The rebranding aims to signify the organization's transition from a sports federation to a broader sports movement
- The Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games is the first edition of the Games to incorporate this logo into the event mark.
- Commonwealth Sport CEO: **Katie Sadleir**

- The event was first held in 1930 as the **British Empire Games** and, with the exception of **1942 and 1946** (which were cancelled due to World War II), has successively run every four years since.
- The event was called the British Empire Games from 1930 to 1950 (four editions), the **British Empire and Commonwealth Games** from 1954 to 1966 (four editions), and the **British Commonwealth Games** from 1970 to 1974 (two editions).
- The event removed the word British from its title for the 1978 Games and has maintained its current name ever since (twelve editions as of 2024).

PM Narendra Modi's Historic Visit to Mauritius



- On the invitation of the Prime Minister of Mauritius, **Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam**, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi made a State Visit to Mauritius to attend the National Day celebrations of Mauritius on **12th March as the Chief Guest**.
- A contingent of Indian Defence Forces participated in the celebrations along with a ship from the Indian Navy.
- Prime Minister last visited Mauritius in **2015**.
- India and Mauritius share a close and special relationship rooted in shared historical, cultural and people to people ties. Further, Mauritius forms an important part of India's **Vision SAGAR**, i.e., Security and growth for All in the Region.
- PM Modi receiving Mauritius' highest civilian honor, **The Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean**

IIFA Awards 2025



- The International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA) 2025 marked a spectacular silver jubilee edition, celebrating 25 years of honoring the best in Bollywood.
- Held in the majestic city of **Jaipur, Rajasthan**
- The biggest winner of the night was Kiran Rao's "**Laapataa Ladies**," which swept **10 awards**, establishing itself as the most celebrated film of the event.
- Other notable winners included Kartik Aaryan, who won Best Actor, and the action thriller "Kill," which bagged multiple trophies

- Best Picture: **Laapataa Ladies**
- Best Direction: **Kiran Rao (Laapataa Ladies)**
- Best Performance in a Leading Role (Male): **Kartik Aaryan (Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3)**
- Best Performance in a Leading Role (Female): **Nitanshi Goel (Laapataa Ladies)**
- Best Directorial Debut: **Kunal Kemmu (Madgaon Express)**
- Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema: **Rakesh Roshan**

India-Bangladesh Conduct CORPAT and BONGOSAGAR In Bay of Bengal



- Indian Navy's **INS Ranvir** and Bangladesh Navy's **BNS Abu Ubaidah** conducted the **Bongosagar 2025** Naval Exercise in the Bay of Bengal, enhancing operational coordination, maritime security, and regional stability under India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) initiative.
- The Bongosagar 2025 exercise is the fifth edition

India 2nd largest Arms Importer: SIPRI



- India's share of global arms imports fell to 8.3% in 2020–24, making it the **2nd-largest arms importer**, after **Ukraine**, as per the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report.
- The latest report from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has unveiled the top 10 largest arms-importing countries from 2020 to 2024.
- India's arms imports declined by 9.3% compared to 2015-19.
- **Russia** remained India's top supplier, but its share dropped from 72% (2010-14) to 36% (2020-24).
- **France** emerged as India's second-largest supplier (28% of its total exports went to India).



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2025

APRIL 2

India Wins ICC Champions Trophy for the Third Time



- The ICC Champions Trophy, formerly known as the ICC Knock Out Trophy, is an international One Day International (ODI) cricket tournament organised by the International Cricket Council (ICC) contested by international men's teams.
- India has once again made history by winning the ICC Champions Trophy for the third time
- Runners-up: **New Zealand**
- Host(s): **Pakistan & United Arab Emirates**
- Player of the Match: **Rohit Sharma**
- Player of the Tournament: **Rachin Ravindra (263 Runs)**

- 2002 – **Joint winners with Sri Lanka**
- 2013 – **Defeated England in the final**
- **Inaugurated in 1998**, the ICC conceived the idea of the Champions Trophy – a short cricket tournament to raise funds for the development of the game in non-test playing countries.
- The first Champions Trophy was organised in **Bangladesh in June 1998**
- **India (2002,2013,2025)** is the most successful team with three titles, Australia (2006,2009) has won it twice while South Africa (1998), New Zealand (2000), Sri Lanka (2002), West Indies (2004) and Pakistan (2017) have won it once each

Australia and England to Play Historic 150th Anniversary Test at MCG



- **Australia and England** will play a historic one-off day-night Test match to commemorate the **150th anniversary of the first Test match**.
- The historic pink-ball Test between the two will be played between **March 11-15, 2027** at the **Melbourne Cricket Ground**, a statement from Cricket Australia confirmed on Tuesday.
- This will make it the first instance of Australia's men's team playing a **pink-ball Test at the MCG**.
- This historic match honors the first official Test held at the MCG in **March 1877**, reaffirming the sport's legacy and evolution

Tamil Nadu Govt Replaces Rupee Symbol with Tamil Letter



- The MK Stalin-led Tamil Nadu government has replaced the official rupee '₹' symbol with a Tamil character in the 2025 state budget in a significant step amid the **ongoing language dispute with the Centre**.
- The new budget logo now features the Tamil letter for 'ரூ [Ru]' from 'rubai,' replacing the Indian currency symbol used in the previous budget.
- The move is being seen as a statement from the Tamil Nadu government which has clashed with the Centre over the **three-language formula** in the National Education Policy (NEP), accusing it of imposing Hindi on the state.
- Tamil Nadu follows a two-language policy (Tamil and English) and has consistently opposed the introduction of Hindi, viewing it as a threat to its linguistic identity.

INS Imphal Strengthens India-Mauritius Ties



- India is set to enhance its maritime security cooperation with Mauritius through a white **shipping agreement**, marking a significant step in bilateral relations
- INS Imphal completed her port visit to **Mauritius**
- The ship was at Mauritius to participate in the **57th Mauritius National Day celebrations**
- The agreement aligns with India's **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) policy**, launched in 2015.

Jayshree Vencatesan: First Indian to Receive Ramsar Award for Wetland

Wise Use



- **Dr Jayshree Vencatesan** has become the first Indian to win the annual prestigious Ramsar Award in the '**Wetland Wise Use**' category.
- Dr Jayshree Vencatesan was one of the 12 women included by the Ramsar Secretariat in its second edition of Women Changemakers in the World of Wetlands.
- Dr. Jayshree Vencatesan is the co-founder of the Care Earth Trust, established in 2000 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Her organisation was awarded the **Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar in 2009** by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for its pioneering work on conserving the **Pallikaranai Marsh and the Nanmangalam Forest**.

Muthoot Microfin Wins Double Gold at SKOCH Awards 2025



- Muthoot Microfin, a leading microfinance institution dedicated to empowering women entrepreneurs, has achieved a significant milestone by securing two prestigious **Gold Awards at the SKOCH Awards 2025**.
- Muthoot Microfin received two Gold Awards in recognition of its **customer-centric digital initiatives and inclusive financial solutions**

ICC Player of the Month Awards for February 2025



- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has today revealed the ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month for February 2025 as **Shubman Gill of India and Alana King of Australia.**
- **Gill** wins his third ICC Men's Player of the Month accolade
- **King** wins her first ICC Women's Player of the Month award
- Alana King became the third consecutive Australian cricketer to win the ICC Women's Player of the Month award.

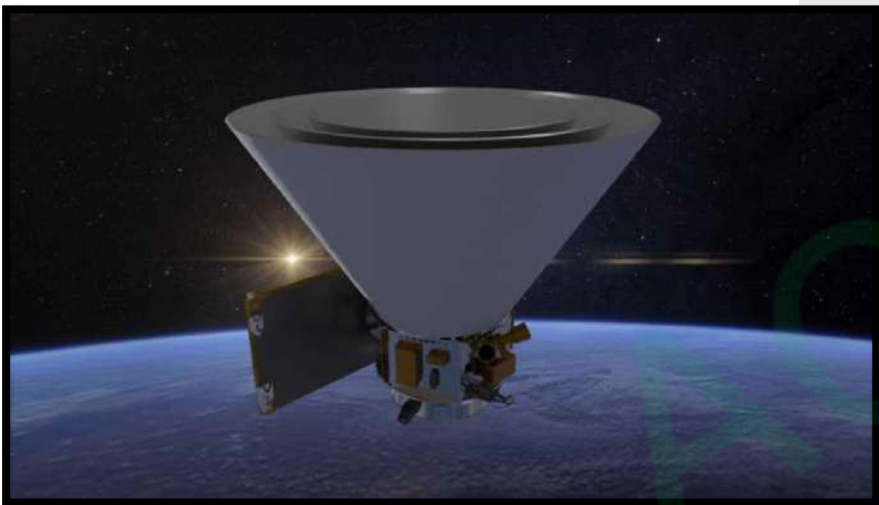
Khelo India Winter Games 2025



- The Khelo India Winter Games 2025, the **fifth edition of the flagship event** under the Indian government's Khelo India initiative, began in **Leh, Ladakh** on January 23.
- The KIWG 2025 was held in two phases.
- The first phase was held in Ladakh from January 23 to 27 while the second began in Jammu and Kashmir on March 9 and ended on 12th.
- The Khelo India Winter Games is an initiative by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, aimed at promoting winter sports in India

- After the event's conclusion, the state, Union Territory or institution with the most gold medals was declared the winner.
- **Indian Army** topped the the Khelo India Winter Games 2025 medal tally with seven golds, four silvers and five bronze.
- 2024: **Indian Army (Winner)**
- 2025: **Indian Army (Winner)**
- **Nayana Sri Talluri**, competing in the women's 500m short track event, won the first gold medal from KIWG 2025.
- Alpine skier **Aanchal Thakur** won gold medals in the alpine skiing slalom and giant slalom events held in Gulmarg.

NASA's Revolutionary Missions: SPHEREx and PUNCH Set to Redefine Space Exploration



- NASA successfully launched the **SPHEREx and PUNCH space missions** from California after multiple delays.
- **PUNCH**, a solar mission comprising four small satellites, was deployed 10 minutes after launch.
 - It will capture detailed 3D images of the solar corona, study solar winds, and improve space weather predictions.
- **Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization and Ices Explorer (SPHEREx)** entered a sun-synchronous orbit 650 km above Earth.
 - This mission will collect data from 450 million galaxies and 100 million stars to create a detailed 3D sky map and study the universe's history.

Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats Initiative Launched



- The **National Convention on Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats** was organized by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in New Delhi
- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has launched two key initiatives — **Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan** and **Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats (MWFGP)** — to promote gender-sensitive governance and empower Women Elected Representatives (WERs) in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
- It aims to establish at least one Model Gram Panchayat in each District in the country that is both women and girl friendly.
- Currently over 1.4 million women elected in PRIs, with Bihar achieving 50% representation, surpassing the 33% reservation quota.

- The event was graced by Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, **Smt. Anupriya Patel** and Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj **Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel**.
- The National Convention unveiled initiatives including Virtual Training Programs for Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats and a comprehensive Real-Time Monitoring Dashboard for gauging the progress of these women friendly gram panchayats in India.
- **Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan**
 - A nationwide capacity-building initiative for Women Elected Representatives (WERs) of PRIs.
 - Objective: Strengthen leadership skills, decision-making abilities, and active participation in rural governance.

Flipkart's Super.money Top 5 UPI App In Feb



- The **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** witnessed a 5.2% decline in transaction volume in February 2025, totaling 16.11 billion transactions.
- Despite the dip, PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm continued to dominate the market, while Flipkart's **Super.money** made its debut in the top five UPI apps.
- The Bengaluru-based fintech firm, which has been offering cashbacks on UPI transactions, overtook Cred, which processed 126.48 million the same month.

RBI Wins Digital Transformation Award 2025 for Pravaah and Sarthi

Initiatives



- The Reserve Bank of India – RBI has been selected for the **Digital Transformation Award 2025** by Central Banking at London in UK.
- The central bank was awarded for its digital initiatives named **Pravaah** and **Sarthi**, which were developed by its in-house developer team.
- **Sarthi**, launched in January 2023, digitised RBI's internal workflows, enabling its employees to store and share documents securely, improving record management, and increasing the options for data analysis through reports and dashboards
- In May 2024, RBI took the second step in its digital transformation by launching **Pravaah**.
- This initiative focuses on external regulatory applications, allowing users to submit their requests digitally to RBI.

India Successfully Tests Astra BVRAAM from LCA Tejas AF MK1 Prototype



- The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) successfully conducted a test launch of the **Astra missile from the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) AF MK1 prototype.**
- This milestone event occurred off the coast of **Chandipur, Odisha.**
- The successful launch demonstrated the missile's accuracy and effectiveness, marking progress in India's indigenous defence capabilities.
- The Astra is a **Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM)** developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The Astra missile has already been inducted into the **Indian Air Force (IAF).**

India Tops Medal Tally at World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025 in New Delhi



- India brought down the curtains on a strong campaign at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025 by finishing on top of the medal table with a total of **134 medals, including 45 gold, 40 silver and 49 bronze**
- The event was held in **New Delhi**.
- **Preethi Pal**, who made history at the Paris Paralympics by becoming the first Indian woman to win two Paralympic medals in track and field, won the bronze medal in the women's 200m T35–T38 event.
- India's **Bhavani Munniyandi** earned a bronze with a 3.51m leap in the women's long jump T38, T44, T61.

Google Unveils Gemma 3: The Next Evolution in Lightweight AI Models



Gemma

- Google has introduced **Gemma 3**, the latest addition to its family of lightweight open AI models, designed to run efficiently on devices such as smartphones, laptops, and other computing platforms.
- Built on the same cutting-edge research and technology that powers Google's Gemini 2.0 models, Gemma 3 aims to enhance user experiences with low-latency processing capabilities that fit on a single GPU (Graphics Processing Unit) or TPU (Tensor Processing Unit) host.

World Consumer Rights Day 2025

A graphic for World Consumer Rights Day. It features a large orange circle with the text "WORLD CONSUMER RIGHTS DAY" in white, bold, uppercase letters. Below the circle, there are several flags of different countries waving on poles against a light blue sky.

WORLD
CONSUMER
RIGHTS DAY

- World Consumer Rights Day, observed annually on **March 15**, serves as an essential reminder of the need to uphold consumer rights and protection
- The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution celebrated the World Consumer Rights Day with the theme “***A Just Transition to Sustainable Lifestyles.***”
- Instituted on **15th March 1983**, the day (15th March) commemorates President John F. Kennedy's 1962 address to the US Congress, where he became the first global leader to formally recognize consumer rights.
- India celebrates **24th December as National Consumer Day** every year, and the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 provides comprehensive legislation to strengthen consumer rights.

- With a view to modernize the framework governing the consumer protection in the new era of globalization, technologies, e-commerce markets etc., the **Consumer Protection Act, 1986** was repealed and Consumer Protection Act, 2019 was enacted. The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 provides for a three tier quasijudicial machinery at
 - District, State and Central levels commonly known as “Consumer Commissions” for protection of the rights of consumers and to provide simple and speedy redressal of consumer disputes including those related with unfair trade practices.

Six New Properties Added to India's UNESCO Tentative List



- India has recently added six new properties to its UNESCO Tentative List, bringing the total count of tentative sites in the country to **62**.
- These sites, including **Ashokan Edict Sites, Chausath Yogini Temples, and Kanger Valley National Park**, were officially included in the list on March 7, 2024, as confirmed by the Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO.
- The tentative list is a crucial step in the nomination process for a site to be inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- According to UNESCO, each country must first include a property in the tentative list before it can formally propose it for World Heritage status.
- This inclusion reflects India's continued efforts to protect and promote its cultural and natural heritage.

Kanger Valley National Park (Chhattisgarh)

- Kanger Valley National Park is known for its biodiversity and unique geological formations.
- It also serves as a habitat for the endangered Bastar Hill Myna, the state bird of Chhattisgarh.

Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs (Telangana)

- These prehistoric megalithic menhirs in Telangana are significant archaeological structures.
- Dating back to the Iron Age, they are believed to have been used for burial and astronomical purposes.
- These sites provide valuable insights into ancient megalithic culture in India.

Ashokan Edict Sites along the Mauryan Routes (Multiple States)

- This is a serial nomination covering multiple locations where Ashoka's edicts were inscribed.
- These edicts, dating back to the 3rd century BCE, offer historical evidence of Mauryan rule, governance, and Ashoka's propagation of Buddhism.

Chausath Yogini Temples (Multiple States)

- The Chausath Yogini Temples are spread across various states and are dedicated to 64 female deities or Yoginis.

Gupta Temples of North India (Multiple States)

- These temples represent Gupta-era architecture, known for its sophisticated design and artistic excellence.
- Built during the 4th to 6th centuries CE, the Gupta temples are important for understanding the development of Indian temple architecture.
- The most notable examples include the Dashavatara Temple at Deogarh and the Parvati Temple at Nachna.

Palace-Fortresses of the Bundelas (Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh)

- The palace-fortresses of the Bundela dynasty stand as historical marvels of medieval India.
- These structures, found in Orchha (Madhya Pradesh) and Datia (Uttar Pradesh), exhibit a unique blend of Rajput and Mughal architectural styles.

- **Currently, India has 43 properties inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, categorized as:**
 - **Cultural Sites: 35**
 - **Natural Sites: 7**
 - **Mixed Site: 1**
- **In 2024, India hosted the World Heritage Committee meeting for the first time. During this event, the Moidams (Ahom Dynasty burial sites) in Assam were officially inscribed on the World Heritage List.**

Armenia and Azerbaijan Finalize Peace Treaty to End 40-Year Conflict



- **Armenia and Azerbaijan** have agreed on the text of a peace treaty, ending almost four decades of conflict over the **Nagorno-Karabakh region**.
- The peace agreement was finalized on **March 13, 2025**, marking a significant step toward establishing stability in the South Caucasus region.
- **The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict** began in the late 1980s, when the region, with a majority ethnic Armenian population, attempted to separate from Azerbaijan with Armenia's support.
- Armenian Prime Minister: **Nikol Pashinyan**
- Azerbaijani President: **Ilham Aliyev**

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2025

APRIL 3

India – New Zealand Announce Launch of FTA Negotiations



- India and New Zealand have initiated negotiations for a comprehensive **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** to strengthen economic cooperation and boost bilateral trade.
- This agreement, which follows India's successful **FTA with Australia in 2022**.
- The FTA negotiations were announced during a meeting between Indian Commerce Minister **Piyush Goyal** and New Zealand Trade **Minister Todd McClay** on March 16, 2025, in New Delhi.
- The announcement came ahead of the bilateral meeting between Indian **PM Narendra Modi and New Zealand PM Christopher Luxon**, who arrived in India for his first official visit.

Hockey India Awards 2024



- **Harmanpreet and Savita** won the Balbir Singh Sr Award for Player of the Year in the men's and women's categories, respectively.
- This was Harmanpreet's **second Balbir Singh Sr. Award**.
 - He was also named the FIH Men's Player of the Year for 2024 award
- Former Indian women's hockey team skipper Savita Punia, who crossed the 300-international cap milestone this year, meanwhile, earned her a **third Balbir Singh Sr Player of the Year award**.
 - Savita also won the Goalkeeper of the Year award.
- **Hockey India** also honoured the victorious Indian squad from the **1975 World Cup with the Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award**

- Hockey India Baljit Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year: **Savita Punia**
- Hockey India Pargat Singh Award for Defender of the Year: **Amit Rohidas**
- Hockey India Ajit Pal Singh Award for Midfielder of the Year: **Hardik Singh**
- Hockey India Dhanraj Pillay Award for Forward of the Year: **Abhishek**
- Hockey India Asunta Lakra Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Women – Under 21): **Deepika**
- Hockey India Jugraj Singh Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Men – Under 21): **Araijeet Singh Hundal**

India Shines with 33 Medals at the Special Olympics World Winter

Games 2025



- India delivered a stellar performance at the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2025, held in **Turin, Italy**, by securing a total of 33 medals.
- The Indian contingent showcased exceptional skill and determination across various winter sports, bringing home **8 gold, 18 silver, and 7 bronze medals.**
- The final day of the event was particularly remarkable as India added 12 more medals to its tally.

India Masters Clinch Historic IML 2025 Title



- India Masters emerged victorious in the inaugural International Masters League (IML) 2025, defeating West Indies Masters
- Led by the legendary Sachin Tendulkar, India Masters put on a clinical performance to secure the title

Hockey Jharkhand Crowned 15th Hockey India Senior Women National Champion



- **Hockey Jharkhand** defeated **Hockey Haryana** to win the 15th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2025.
- Held on March 12, 2025, at the **Tau Devi Lal Complex, Panchkula, Haryana.**
- Hockey Jharkhand won its first-ever Senior Women National Championship title.
- **Hockey Mizoram** defeated Hockey Maharashtra to take the third spot with Hockey Maharashtra at the fourth position.

India Generated \$143 Million by Launching Foreign Satellites Since 2015



- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has generated nearly **143 million US dollars** in foreign exchange revenue through satellite launches.
- ISRO launched a total of **393 foreign satellites and 3 Indian customer satellites** on a commercial basis over the past decade.
- Between January 2015 and December 2024, these satellites were successfully launched aboard ISRO's **PSLV, LVM3, and SSLV launch vehicles**.
- ISRO's impressive track record includes launching satellites for **34 countries**, including the United States, the **United Kingdom, Singapore**, and several other developed nations.

- **India's Recent Space Achievements**
 - **Chandrayaan-3 (2023):** Successful soft landing on the Moon's South Pole.
 - **Aditya L1 (2023):** India's first solar mission.
 - **Gaganyaan Mission (2025):** India's first manned mission with astronauts trained in Russia.
 - Plan to establish **Bharatiya Antariksha Station** (Indian Space Station) by 2035.
 - India aims to send the **first Indian astronaut to the Moon by 2040.**

National Vaccination Day 2025



- National Vaccination Day 2025 is celebrated in India on **16th March** to spread awareness about the importance of vaccines in preventing diseases and managing public health.
- Celebrated since 1995 to commemorate the first dose of oral polio vaccine administered in India on **March 16, 1995**.
- India was declared polio-free by **WHO in 2014**
- **Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccine:** Dedicated to measles eradication and rubella control goals, India in 2017 introduced the MR vaccine, which targeted 41 crore children from 9 months to 15 years.
- **Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV):** Launched in May 2017, PCV in 5 states reduced infant mortality and morbidity caused by pneumococcal pneumonia.

Renowned Odia Poet Ramakanta Rath Passes Away



- **Padma Bhushan Ramakanta Rath**, one of the most renowned modernist poets in Odia literature, passed away
- Ramakanta Rath was conferred with the **Padma Bhushanin in 2006** and many other coveted literary awards.
- He received the **Sahitya Akademi Award in 1977, Saraswathi Samman in 1992, Bishuva Samman in 1990**
- He also served as **president of the Sahitya Akademi of India** from 1998 to 2003.

US Travel Ban 2025: Impact on 43 Countries



- The Donald Trump administration is considering imposing a new travel ban that could affect citizens from as many as 43 countries
- A draft list of recommendations by security officials proposes categorising countries into three groups — **Red, Orange, and Yellow** to restrict travel.
- Being placed on the **Red List** would mean a complete ban on entering the United States.
- The draft also places 10 countries, including **Afghanistan and Bhutan**, on the Red List, meaning their citizens could face a full visa suspension.
- **Pakistan and Russia** are included in the “**Orange List**,” which consists of 10 countries facing restricted travel rather than an outright ban.
- The proposal also includes a draft **yellow list** of 22 countries that would be given 60 days to clear up perceived deficiencies, with the threat of being moved onto one of the other lists if they did not comply.

Stuart Young Sworn in as Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago



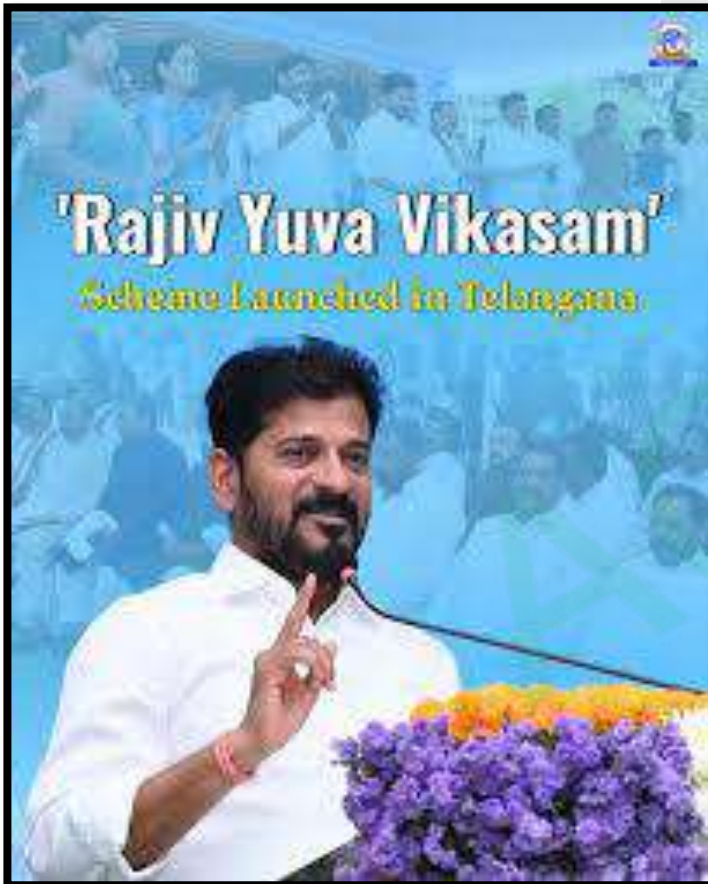
- **Stuart Young**, sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago
- Mr Young is currently serving as the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries.
- He will succeed the outgoing Prime Minister **Dr. Keith Rowley**
- In early January, Dr. Rowley announced his intention to resign from office before the end of his term and days later named Minister Stuart Young as his successor.

Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman Appointed as CEO of Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)



- Secretary Department of Science and Technology (DST) **Professor Abhay Karandikar** who was acting as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** handed over the charge to **Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman** who has been appointed CEO.
- ANRF will act as an apex body to provide **high-level strategic direction of scientific research in the country** as per recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP).

Telangana Government Launches 'Rajiv Yuva Vikasam' Scheme to Boost Self-Employment



- In Telangana, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy launched the '**Rajiv Yuva Vikasam**' scheme
- The scheme provides self-employment loans to youths from **Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Backward Classes (BC), and Minority communities.**
- It is expected to create self-employment opportunities for five lakh unemployed youth across the state.
- The government has allocated six thousand crore rupees for the initiative, reaffirming its commitment to youth empowerment and economic development.

India's First PPP Green Waste Processing Plant in Indore



- Indore has established India's first **public-private partnership (PPP) green waste processing plant**, a landmark initiative under the **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban**.
- This facility, located in Bicholi Hapsi and is designed to recycle green waste like wood and branches into useful products, including wood pellets that can be used as a substitute for coal.
- The facility will not only process green waste but also generate revenue, with the Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) earning approx. Rs 3,000 per tonne in royalty for supplying wood and branches.

VARUNA 2025: Strengthening India-France Naval Cooperation



- The **23rd edition of the bilateral naval exercise VARUNA**, a testament to the enduring maritime partnership between India and France, is set to take place from 19 to 22 Mar 25.
- Since its inception in **2001**, VARUNA has evolved into a cornerstone of cooperation, showcasing the two nations' commitment to enhancing naval interoperability and operational synergy.
- VARUNA 2025 will feature advanced air defence drills and fighter exercises, including mock air-to-air combat between the **French Rafale-M and Indian MiG-29K**, designed to refine tactical and operational capabilities.

Kabaddi World Cup 2025 Begins in England



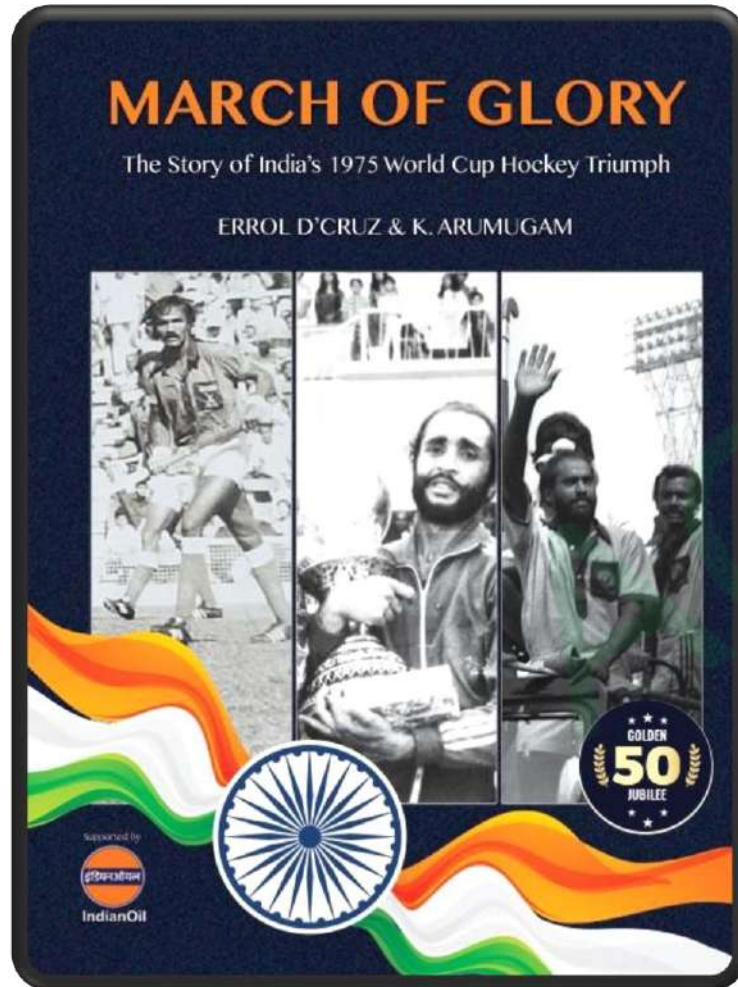
- The 2025 Kabaddi World Cup is the second edition of the Kabaddi World Cup held under the authority of **World Kabaddi**.
- It was hosted in the **West Midlands, England**, during 17–23 March 2025
- The previous World Cup was held in **Melaka, Malaysia** in 2019
- Champions:
 - **India (Men's)**
 - **India (Women's)**

Kirsty Coventry Becomes First Female and African President of the International Olympic Committee



- **Kirsty Coventry** of Zimbabwe was elected as the 10th President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and the **first female President in IOC history** at the 144th IOC Session in Costa Navarino, Greece.
- Kirsty Coventry was also the **first African president** in the organisation's 130-year history.
- Kirsty Coventry is one of Africa's most decorated Olympians, having won seven Olympic medals in **swimming**.
- She clinched the gold medal in the 200m backstroke at the 2004 Athens Olympics and successfully defended her title in Beijing 2008.

Book 'March of Glory' Released to Celebrate India's 1975 Hockey World Cup Victory



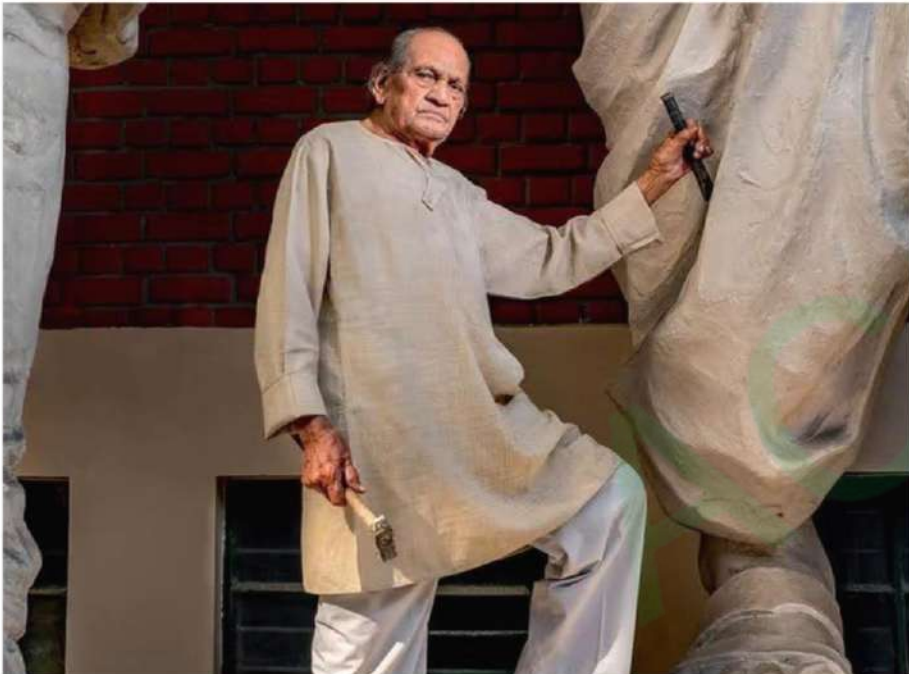
- To mark 50 years since India's historic Hockey World Cup victory in 1975, a book titled '*March of Glory*' was unveiled on March 18, 2025, at Shivaji Stadium, New Delhi.
- Written by hockey historian **K. Arumugam** and journalist **Errol D'Cruz**.
- The book focuses on the event's atmosphere and drama along with the prowess and spirit of the team led by **Ajit Pal Singh** in its quest to win the title in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Hydrologist Günter Blöschl Wins 2025 Stockholm Water Prize



- **Günter Blöschl**, a renowned hydrologist, has been awarded the 2025 Stockholm Water Prize for his pioneering research on flood risks and climate change impacts globally.
- **Stockholm Water Prize 2025** is an internationally acclaimed water award recognizing outstanding achievements in water science, management, and protection.
- Presented by the Stockholm Water Foundation in collaboration with the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.**
- Established in 1991 as part of the Stockholm Water Festival, celebrating Sweden's commitment to clean water.

Statue of Unity Sculptor Ram Sutar Conferred with Maharashtra Bhushan Award



- Renowned sculptor **Ram Sutar**, the designer of the Statue of Unity, has been awarded Maharashtra's highest civilian honor, the **Maharashtra Bhushan**.
- The award includes a prize of Rs **25 lakh** and a memento.
- Has been commissioned to create a statue of **Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar** for Chaityabhoomi, Mumbai.
- Born in Dhule, Maharashtra, and recently turned 100 years old.
- Honored with **Padma Shri (1999)** and **Padma Bhushan (2016)**.

Japan Becomes First Team to Qualify for the 2026 FIFA World Cup After Host Nations



- **Japan** have become the first nation to qualify for the men's FIFA World Cup 2026 by beating Bahrain
- The 2026 FIFA World Cup qualification will decide the 45 teams that will join hosts **Canada, Mexico, and the United States** at the 2026 FIFA World Cup.
- Other teams:
 - **New Zealand**
 - **Iran**
 - **Argentina**

ISRO Develops High-Speed Microprocessors



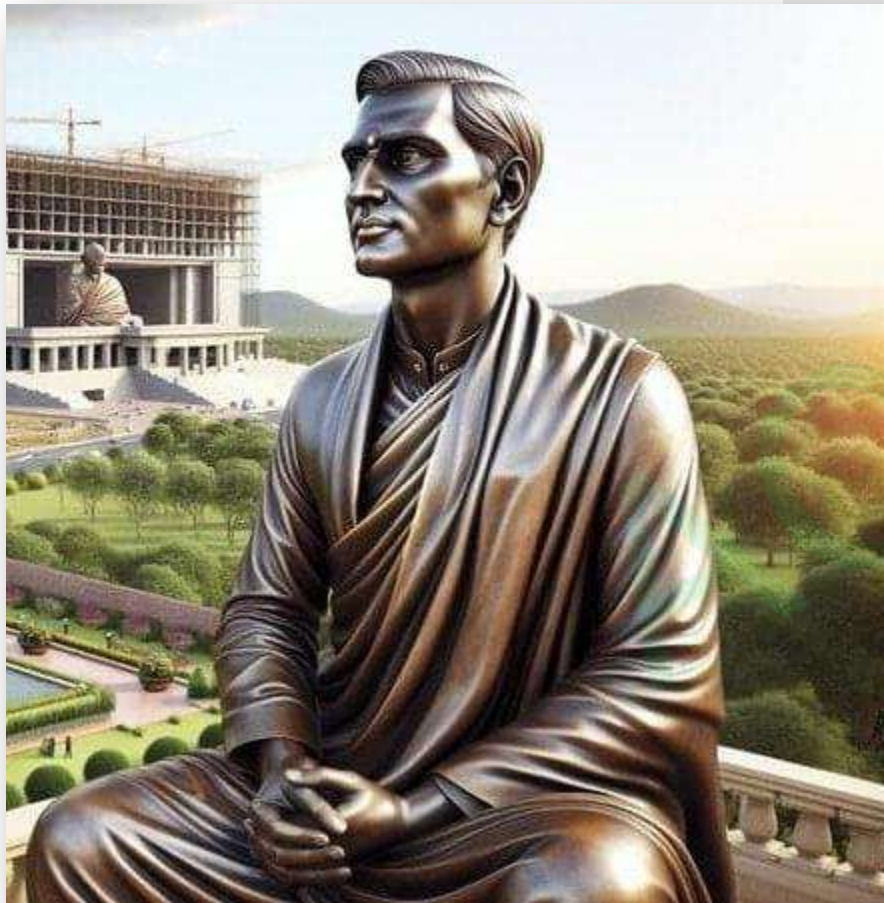
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced the development of two advanced 32-bit microprocessors, **Vikram 3201 and Kalpana 3201**.
- These processors are designed for space applications and represent leap in India's indigenous technology capabilities.
- They were developed in collaboration with the **Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL) in Chandigarh**.
- ISRO has a history of developing microprocessors for its launch vehicles.
- The **Vikram 1601**, a 16-bit microprocessor, has been operational since 2009. The new Vikram 3201 is an upgraded 32-bit version
- This initiative aligns with India's "**Make in India**" campaign, promoting self-reliance in critical technology sectors.

Purple Fest 2025 organised at Rashtrapati Bhavan



- The much-anticipated Purple Fest 2025 was hosted today at Rashtrapati Bhavan by the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DePwD)**, Union **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- The fest featured literary discussions, sports activities, corporate collaborations, and cultural performances, all focused on creating opportunities and fostering an inclusive society.
- The first Purple Fest was held in **Panjim, Goa, in January 2023**.
- The event is becoming a flagship programme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for Divyangjan in India.

Potti Sriramulu's 58-Foot Statue to be Installed in Amaravati



- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu** has declared that a 58-foot statue of **Potti Sriramulu** will be erected in Amaravati as a tribute to his pivotal role in the formation of Andhra Pradesh.
- Sriramulu's **58-day hunger strike in 1952** was instrumental in the state's creation
- His death led to widespread riots, forcing PM Jawaharlal Nehru to announce the formation of Andhra Pradesh on October 1, 1953.
- April 2023: Telangana's then CM K. Chandrashekar Rao unveiled a **125-foot statue of B.R. Ambedkar in Hyderabad.**
- January 2024: Andhra's then CM Jagan Mohan Reddy unveiled a **206-foot Ambedkar statue in Vijayawada.**

Amitabh Kant Appointed as NIIT University Chancellor



- NIIT University (NU) has appointed Shri **Amitabh Kant**, former NITI Aayog CEO and India's G20 Sherpa, as its new Chancellor (Chairperson), effective March 10, 2025.
- In addition, Shri Kant's key role in India's G20 Presidency in 2023 positioned the country as a critical voice in global economic discussions. H
- Shri Kant succeeds **Shri K Kasturirangan**, whose tenure significantly contributed to NU's growth and reputation
- NIIT University has partnerships with more than 700 industry entities, including IBM, Tata Consultancy Services, Morgan Stanley and Deloitte.

World Happiness Report 2025: India at 118th



- India has been ranked as the **118th happiest** country in the world amongst the 147 countries surveyed in the latest **World Happiness Report 2025**.
- India which was ranked **126 last year** has climbed by 8 positions in the latest report.
- **Finland** retained its status as the happiest country in the world while Afghanistan was ranked as the most unhappy country in the world.
- The **13th edition of the World Happiness Report** was released on 20th March 2025 coinciding with the International Day of Happiness that falls on 20th March each year.
- The Report is published by the University of Oxford's Wellbeing Research Centre in partnership with Gallup and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

World Water Day 2025



- World Water Day is being observed on **March 22nd**.
- The celebration is closely linked to **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6**, which aims to ensure water and sanitation for all by 2030.
- The theme of World Water Day this year is '**Glacier Preservation**', emphasizing the critical role of glaciers in maintaining global freshwater supplies and the urgent need for conservation measures in the face of climate change.
- World Water Day was established in **1992 by the United Nations** when the world body convened the Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- The first observance of the day took place on **22nd of March in 1993**, marking the beginning of an annual global initiative.

- On the World Water Day today, the government will launch the much-anticipated ***Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain – 2025*** campaign at **Panchkula in Haryana**.
- The campaign is being initiated by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change and the Haryana Government.
- The initiative aims to raise nationwide awareness and drive action for water conservation, making the vision of “**Every Drop Counts**” a reality.
- Theme: “**People’s Action for Water Conservation- Towards Intensified Community Connect**” (Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari: Jan Jagrukta Ki Or).
- Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil and Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini will take part in the event.

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World Meteorological Day 2025



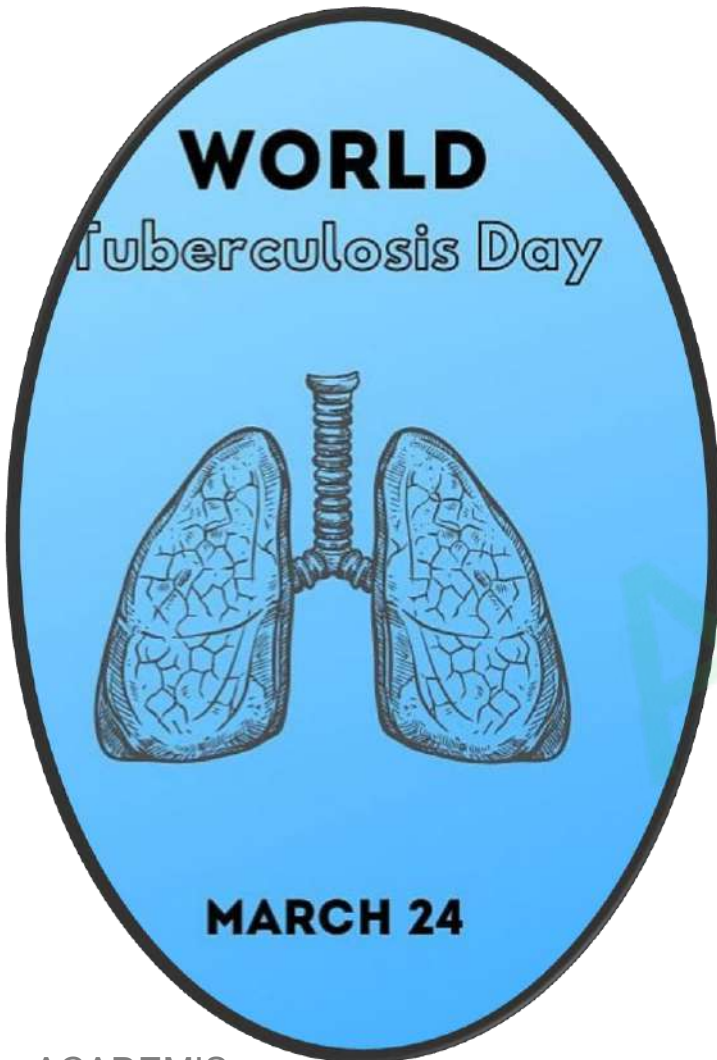
- World Meteorological Day is observed every year on **March 23**, to commemorate the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1950
- The theme for World Meteorological Day 2025 is “***Closing the Early Warning Gap Together***”
- WMO recently confirmed that **2024 was the hottest year on record**
- First Observed: **March 23, 1961**

First-Ever Export of Anthurium Flowers from Mizoram to Singapore



- In a significant step towards enhancing India's floriculture export potential, particularly from the North Eastern Region (NER), the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**, in collaboration with the **Department of Horticulture, Government of Mizoram**, successfully facilitated the flagging off of the first consignment of **Anthurium flowers from Aizawl, Mizoram, to Singapore**
- The consignment, comprising 1,024 Anthurium cut flowers (weighing 70 kg) packed in 50 corrugated boxes, was exported by IVC Agroviet Pvt. Ltd. from Aizawl, Mizoram, to Singapore via Kolkata.
- The flowers were sourced from the Zo Anthurium Growers Cooperative Society, Aizawl, Mizoram, and imported by Veg Pro Singapore Pte. Ltd., marking a milestone in the region's floriculture export journey.

World TB Day 2025



- **World Tuberculosis Day (24th March)** raises awareness of tuberculosis's (TB's) health, social, and economic impact.
- **Dr. Robert Koch** discovered Mycobacterium tuberculosis on **24th March 1882**, leading to the establishment of World TB Day.
- Theme 2025: ***"Yes! We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver."***
- India has the largest TB burden (26% of global cases and 29% of global TB-related deaths). In 2023, 25.5 lakh TB cases were notified.
 - TB incidence declined 17.7% (237 per 1 lakh in 2015 to 195 in 2023), while TB deaths dropped 21.4% (28 per lakh in 2015 to 22 in 2023).

Kerala Became First State To Establishes Senior Citizens Commission

- **Kerala**, is the first state in India to set up such a commission for senior citizens.
- It is a statutory body established under the **Kerala State Senior Citizens Commission Act, 2025**.
- It will safeguard the rights and welfare of elderly citizens and act as an advisory body for policymaking.
- The need for a dedicated commission arose from the **increasing elderly population in Kerala**.
 - According to the United Nations Population Fund, by 2036, 22.8% of Kerala's population will be aged 60 and above.
 - The state already has elderly demographic, with 16.5% recorded in 2021.



Violinist R.K. Shriramkumar Honored with Sangita Kalanidhi Award



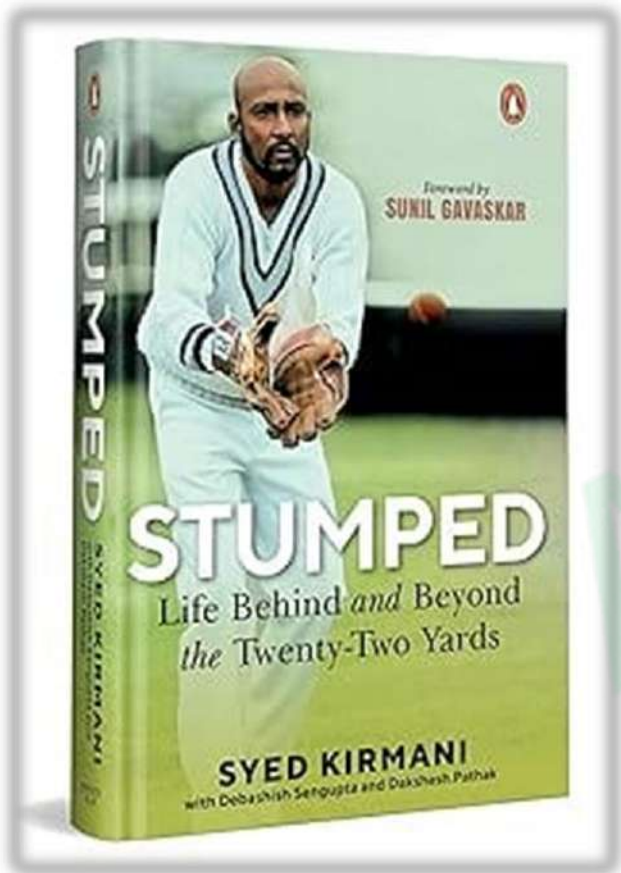
- **Violinist R.K. Shriramkumar** has been selected for the prestigious Sangita Kalanidhi award for 2025, presented by the Music Academy
- The award will be conferred during the Academy's 99th annual conference and concerts, scheduled from **December 15, 2025, to January 1, 2026.**
- This recognition comes in the 250th anniversary year of the legendary composer **Muthuswami Dikshitar.**
- The **Sangita Kalanidhi award** is among the most esteemed recognitions in Carnatic music.
- Established by the Music Academy, Chennai, it is awarded annually to a musician who has made significant contributions to the field.

Ajay Seth Appointed as India's New Finance Secretary



- Senior bureaucrat **Ajay Seth** has been designated as the new Finance Secretary
- Ajay Seth, a 1987-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the **Karnataka cadre**, brings a wealth of experience to his new role.
- He was previously serving as **the Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs**, where he played a crucial role in shaping the nation's economic policies.
- Seth takes the baton from **Tuhin Kanta Pandey**, who has moved on from the post of Finance Secretary to become the new Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) chairperson in March this year.

Stumped: Syed Kirmani's Autobiography



- The book *Stumped*, co-authored by **Syed Kirmani, Debashish Sengupta, and Dakshesh Pathak**, provides fascinating insights into Kirmani's career and the historic 1983 Cricket World Cup.
- Syed Kirmani is an Indian cricketer who played cricket for India and Karnataka as a wicket-keeper.
- In 2016, he was awarded the **Col CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award**, the highest honour bestowed by BCCI on a former player.
- Kirmani was a member of the Indian team that won the **1983 Cricket World Cup**
- He was awarded the **Padma Shri in 1982**.

ASI discovers megaliths in Kerala and Buddhist treasures in Odisha



- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has made significant discoveries, including over **110 megalithic structures near Malampuzha dam in Kerala** and **Buddhist remains in Ratnagiri, Odisha**.
- The Kerala findings include burial sites from the **Neolithic and Bronze Age**.
- Simultaneously, excavations in Ratnagiri, Odisha, have unveiled a treasure trove of **Buddhist antiquities**, offering crucial insights into the spread of **Vajrayana Buddhism** and its connections with Southeast Asia.
- The discovery aligns with other notable megalithic sites in South India, such as **Brahmagiri in Karnataka** and **Adichanallur in Tamil Nadu**.

Supreme Court Establishes National Task Force for Student Mental Health Concerns



- In a landmark move, the Supreme Court of India has decided to constitute a National Task Force to study and address mental health challenges faced by students and to prevent student suicides.
- The decision was triggered by alarming data from the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** showing 13,000+ student suicides in 2022, marking a consistent and distressing trend.
- These deaths span across higher educational institutions like IITs, central universities, and even schools, indicating that the crisis is systemic and widespread.
- **Justice S. Ravindra Bhat** will chair the NTF, with secretaries from the higher education, social justice, legal affairs, and women and child development ministries serving as ex-officio members.

India Becomes the World's Top Milk Producer



- India is the top producer of milk in the world and has set a target of producing **300 million metric tons (MMT) of milk** in the next five years from the present 239 MMT
- Union Minister of Animal Husbandry and Dairying **Rajiv Ranjan Singh** said in the Lok Sabha
- This growth has been significantly driven by the **Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)**, launched in 2014.
- The nation contributes more than **24% of global milk production**.
- The per capita milk consumption in India is **471 grams per day**, significantly higher than the global average.

Ex-Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba Appointed Full-Time Member of NITI

Aayog



- Former Cabinet Secretary **Rajiv Gauba** has been appointed as the full-time member of NITI Aayog.
- His appointment has come into effect with immediate effect.
- Known for his role in policy-making and governance, his expertise will strengthen NITI Aayog's strategic initiatives
- Gauba served as India's top bureaucrat (2019–2024) and held key positions like Union Home Secretary and Chief Secretary of Jharkhand
- Chairman – **The Prime Minister of India is the chairman of NITI Aayog.**
- Vice-Chairman – **Appointed by the Central Government.**

- Vice Chairperson: **Suman Bery.**
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO): **B. V. R. Subrahmanyam**
- Ex-Officio Members: **Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitaraman and Shivraj Singh Chouhan.**
- Special Invitees: **Nitin Gadkari, Piyush Goyal, Virendra Kumar, Ashwini Vaishnaw and Rao Inderjit Singh.**
- Full-time Members: **V. K. Saraswat (former DRDO Chief), Ramesh Chand (Agriculture Expert) and V. K. Paul (Public Health expert), Arvind Virmani (Economist) and Rajiv Gauba (former Cabinet Secretary of India).**
- Governing Council: **All Chief Ministers of States (including Delhi , Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry), Lieutenant Governors of all other UTs**

Ajinkya Rahane Creates IPL History: First Indian to Captain Three

Different Teams



- Ajinkya Rahane, the senior Indian batsman and captain of Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in IPL 2025, made history on, by becoming the first Indian player to lead three different teams in the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- **Rising Pune Supergiant (IPL 2017)** – Captained one match.
- **Rajasthan Royals (IPL 2018 & 2019)** – Led the team in 24 matches.
- **Kolkata Knight Riders (IPL 2025)** – Became KKR captain in the current season.
- Before Rahane, only three players had achieved this feat:
 - **Kumar Sangakkara, Steve Smith, Mahela Jayawardene**

Sunil Kumar wins bronze medal at Asian Wrestling Championships 2025



- **Sunil Kumar** opened India's medal count at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2025 in Amman, Jordan, with a bronze in the Greco-Roman **87kg weight division**
- This was Sunil Kumar's **fifth senior medal at the Asian Wrestling Championships**.
- He won the **silver medal in 2019** and ended India's 27-year-long wait for a **gold medal** in Greco-Roman wrestling at the **Asian Championships in 2020**.
- The Indian grappler also clinched successive **bronze medals in 2022 and 2023**.

Commemorative Postage Stamp Issued in Honor of Mata Karma



- The Department of Posts released a commemorative postage stamp on **Mata Karma's 1009th birth anniversary.**
- The stamp was unveiled in a special ceremony in **Raipur**, marking her 1009th birth anniversary.
- Karma Bai was a 11th century saint and Krishna devotee, **born in 1017 AD** in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.
- She is revered for her unwavering devotion and is best **known for offering khichdi to Lord Krishna**, a tradition still followed at Jagannath Temple, Puri.

India Becomes the World's Second-Largest Tea Exporter in 2024



- India has achieved a significant milestone in the global tea industry, surpassing **Sri Lanka** to become the **world's second-largest exporter of tea in 2024**.
- According to data compiled by the **Tea Board of India**, the country exported an impressive 255 million kilograms of tea last year, marking a substantial growth in its export figures.
- While **Kenya** has retained the top spot.
- India's tea exports soared to a 10-year high of 255 million kilograms in 2024, marking a significant achievement despite global market uncertainties caused by geopolitical tensions.
- India exports tea to more than 25 countries with the **UAE, Iraq, Iran, Russia, USA and the UK** as its major markets

Roshni Nadar Becomes First Indian Woman in World's Top 10 Richest Women



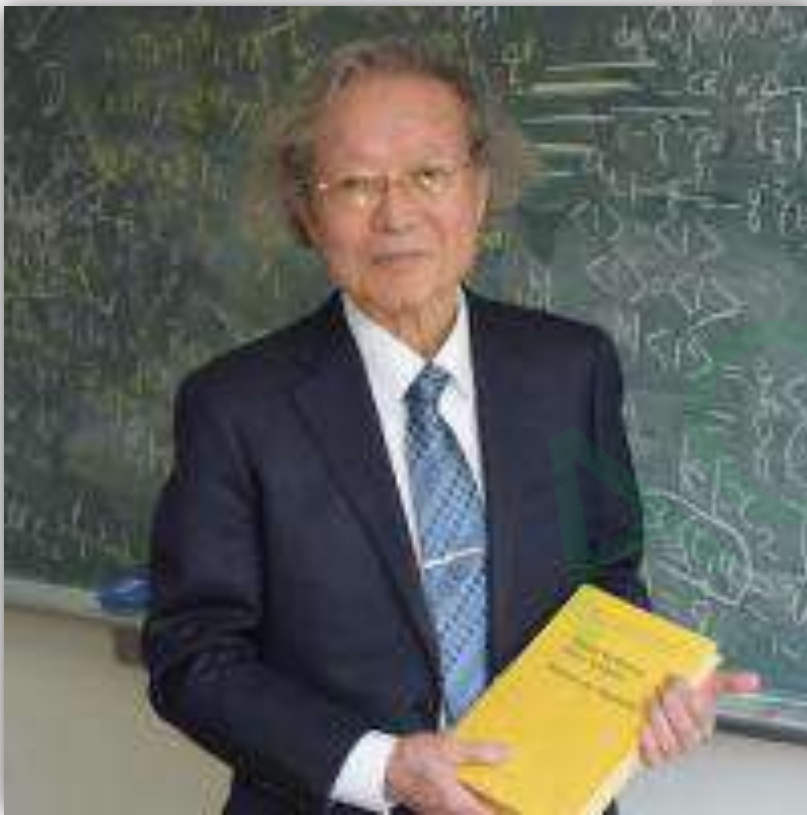
- **Roshni Nadar Malhotra**, Chairperson of HCL Technologies Ltd, became the first Indian woman to enter the **Global Top 10 Women rankings this year**.
- According to the latest data by **Hurun Global Rich List 2025**, Malhotra is currently the fifth richest woman in the world.
- She rose to the ranks after her father transferred a **47 per cent stake** in HCL Tech.
- According to the Hurun Global Rich List for 2025, Reliance Industries chairman **Mukesh Ambani** has reclaimed the title of 'Richest Person in Asia' while Adani Group's chairman **Gautam Adani** added ₹1 lakh crore to his fortune to emerge as the country's biggest wealth gainer.

Government to Launch 'Sahkar' Taxi Service Under Cooperative Model



- Union Home and Cooperation Minister **Amit Shah** announced the launch of a new app-based taxi service, '**Sahkar**', modeled on Ola and Uber but operating under the cooperative framework.
- The announcement was made in Parliament during the discussion on the Multi-State **Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2023**, which also introduced provisions for setting up a National Cooperative University.
- The 'Sahkar' taxi service is a government-backed initiative that aims to empower drivers by making them stakeholders rather than just service providers.
- Unlike traditional ride-hailing services like Ola and Uber, which operate under corporate ownership, 'Sahkar' will be cooperatively owned to ensure fair earnings and profit-sharing for drivers.

Masaki Kashiwara Wins the 2025 Abel Prize for Mathematics



- Japanese mathematician **Masaki Kashiwara** has been awarded the **Abel Prize 2025**.
- He was recognized for foundational work in algebraic analysis and representation theory, especially for the theory of D-modules and crystal bases
- The **Abel Prize** is given for outstanding achievements in mathematics.
- Named after Norwegian mathematician **Niels Henrik Abel**, it was established by the **Norwegian Parliament in 2002**.
- **2024: Michel Talagrand**

India and Russia Conduct 14th Edition of Maritime Bilateral Exercise – **INDRA 2025**



- The 14th edition of the bilateral naval exercise INDRA-2025 between **India and Russia** was conducted in Chennai.
- It is a bilateral naval exercise conducted regularly since **2003**.
- The exercise is being conducted in two phases - Harbour phase from 28 to 30 Mar 25 at **Chennai**, and Sea phase from 31 Mar to 02 Apr 25 in Bay of Bengal.
- Russian ships such as **Pechanga, Rezkiy, Aldar Tsydenzhapov, and** Indian warships- **Rana, Kuthar, and the P-8I aircraft** participated in the exercise.

37th Kathak Mahotsav 2025



- The **37th Kathak Mahotsav 2025**, a six-day event hosted by **Kathak Kendra, New Delhi**, concluded on March 26th, 2025.
- It included a **world-first Kathak Literary Festival**, a walking exhibition, and Kathak seminars and dance concerts.
- The festival celebrated **60 years of Kathak Kendra's contribution** to the art form
- Kathak Kendra, New Delhi the Constituent Unit of **Sangeet Natak Akademi**, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India

Nidhi Tiwari Appointed as Private Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra

Modi



- The government has officially appointed Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer **Nidhi Tiwari** as the Private Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)** issued a memorandum confirming her appointment with immediate effect.
- Nidhi Tiwari is a distinguished officer of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) with extensive experience in diplomatic and governmental affairs.

Anahat Singh & Kareem El Torkey Win Indian Open 2025 Squash Titles



- Indian teenager **Anahat Singh** secured the women's squash title at the Indian Open 2025
- The Indian Open 2025 PSA Copper event, held at **Bombay Gymkhana, Mumbai**, from March 24-28, 2025, saw **Anahat Singh and Kareem El Torkey** clinch the women's and men's singles titles, respectively.
- In the men's final, Abhay Singh lost to Egypt's Kareem El Torkey after a hard-fought affair.



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MGNREGS Wage Hike for 2025-26



- The Government of India has notified an increase in wage rates under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)** for the financial year 2025-26.
- The hike ranges from **2.33% to 7.48%**, with wages increasing by **Rs 7 to Rs 26 per day** depending on the state.
- This marks the first time NREGS wages have reached **Rs 400 per day** in any state, with **Haryana** recording the highest increase.
- The new wage rates will come into effect from **April 1, 2025**.

- **Haryana** has seen the highest absolute **increase of Rs 26**, taking its wage rate to Rs 400 per day.
- The lowest increase of **Rs 7 per day** has been recorded in **Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, and Telangana**.
- **Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland** have the lowest at **₹241 per day**.
- In **Kerala**, wages were increased by ₹23, from **₹346 to ₹369**.
- **Odisha** recorded the highest percentage hike at **7.48%**, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh at 7.41%.
- Under the MGNREGA Act, 2005, every rural household with adult members willing to undertake unskilled manual work is entitled to at least **100 days of wage employment** in a financial year.
- However, in certain conditions, an additional 50 days of work is provided:
 - Scheduled Tribe households in forest areas (as per the Forest Rights Act, 2016).
 - Areas affected by drought or natural calamities, as notified by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Punjab to Develop Nangal as a Tourist Hub & Jhajjar Bachauli as the First Leopard Safari



- To promote tourism and wildlife conservation in Punjab, the government has planned to develop the **Jhajjar-Bachauli Wildlife Sanctuary** of Sri Anandpur Sahib into an eco-tourism and the first Leopard safari destination in the state.
- This was announced in the state's budget presented for the year 2025-26.
- It has also been announced to develop **Nangal** as Punjab's next big tourist spot for which a provision of Rs. 10 Crore has been kept in the budget.
- These initiatives are part of the '**Badalda Punjab' Budget 2025-26**, presented by Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema

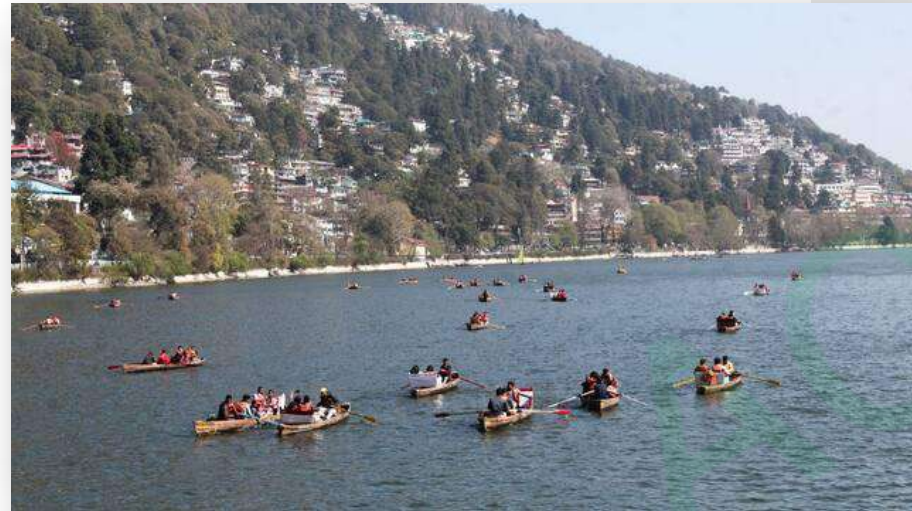
Sarhul Festival of Jharkhand 2025



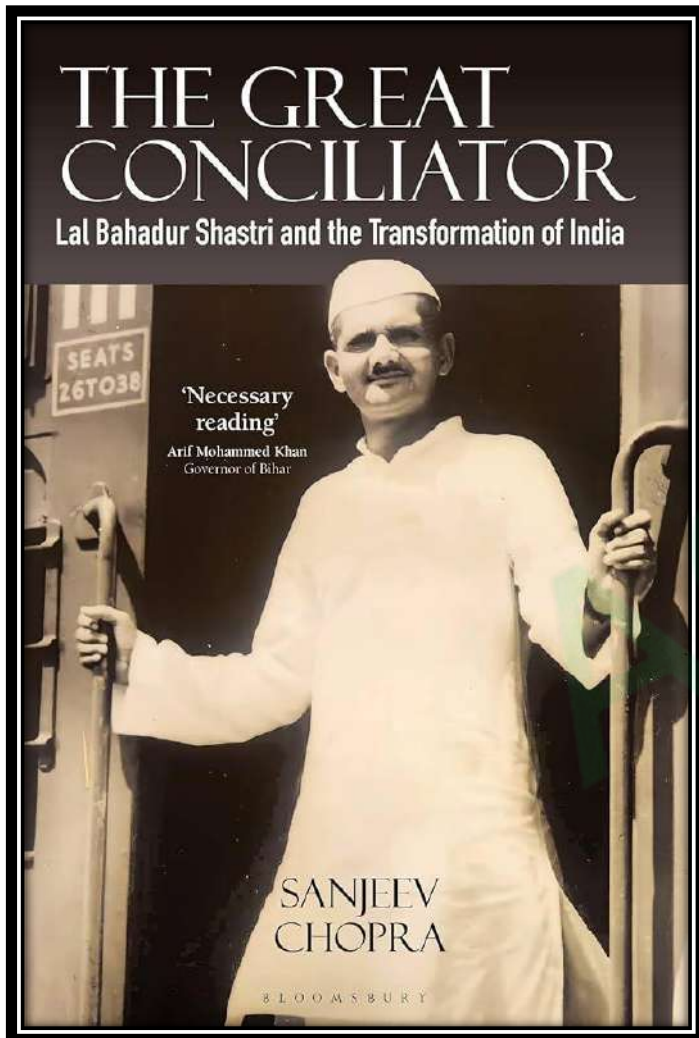
- On 1st April 2025, **adivasis in Jharkhand** and the larger **Chhotanagpur region** celebrated the new year and the arrival of spring with the Sarhul festival.
- Primarily celebrated by **Munda, Oraon, and Ho tribes**.
- It is celebrated in the **Hindu month of Chaitra**, three days after the appearance of the new moon.
- **Sarhul**, meaning “worship of the Sal tree,” is one of the most revered Adivasi festivals, symbolizing the union of the Sun and the Earth.

Naini Lake's Facing Depleting of Water Levels

- **Naini Lake in Nainital, Uttarakhand** is experiencing a significant decline in water levels, reaching its lowest point in five years.
- This is due to various factors including reduced snowfall and rainfall, increasing population and tourism, unplanned construction, and pollution from wastewater and solid waste
- Naini Lake transformed into a key factor that enabled British to found Nainital as their summer retreat during the colonial period.
- Provides 76% of Nainital's water demand, with 10 million liters extracted daily for drinking water supply.



The Great Conciliator A Book On Lal Bahadur Shastri



- "*The Great Conciliator: Lal Bahadur Shastri and the Transformation of India*" is a biography by **Sanjeev Chopra** that explores the life and legacy of India's second Prime Minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri.
- Lal Bahadur Shastri was the second Prime Minister of India, serving from 1964 to 1966.
- He was born on October 2, 1904, and died on January 11, 1966, in Tashkent.
- Shastri is known for his leadership during the Indo-Pak War of 1965 and his popular slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan," which celebrated the importance of soldiers and farmers.
- He was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1966

Exercise Tiger Triumph 2025



- The **fourth edition** of bilateral tri-service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) amphibious **Exercise Tiger Triumph 2025** between **India and the United States** conducted
- The exercise consists of two phases—the Harbour Phase at **Visakhapatnam** (April 1–7) and the Sea Phase off **Kakinada** (April 8–13).
- Key participants include the **Indian Navy** (INS Jalashwa, INS Gharial, P-8I aircraft), **Indian Army** (91 Infantry Brigade), **Indian Air Force** (C-130, MI-17 helicopters), and the **US Navy** (USS Comstock, USS Ralph Johnson, US Marine Division)
- Other joint exercises between India and the U.S. include:
 - **Yudh Abhyas (military), Cope India (air) and Vajra Prahar.**

Aryna Sabalenka Wins Miami Open 2025



- World No. 1 **Aryna Sabalenka** delivered a commanding performance to win her first Miami Open title, defeating **Jessica Pegula**
- With this victory, she secured her 19th WTA title, including eight WTA 1000 titles and three Grand Slam championships.
- Became only the third WTA No.1 in history to reach the finals of the Australian Open, Indian Wells, and Miami Open in the same year.
- She won three majors at the **2023 Australian Open, 2024 Australian Open, and 2024 US Open,**

SpaceX Successfully Launches Fram2 Mission



- SpaceX's **Fram2 mission** successfully launched on March 31, 2025, carrying four private astronauts on the **first human spaceflight to orbit Earth's poles**.
- This privately funded mission, launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Center, aimed to perform scientific experiments and advance research for future long-duration space travel, including **trips to Mars**.
- The crew included **Jannicke Mikkelsen, Rabea Rogge, Eric Phillips, and entrepreneur Chun Wang**
- This Mission has been launched by **Dragon spacecraft** of SpaceX.
- It will carry out a series of experiments, including the **first X-ray in space** and the **cultivation of mushrooms in microgravity**.

Utkal Dibasa: Honoring Odisha's Formation



- **Utkal Divas 2025** is also known as Odisha Foundation Day 2025 will be celebrated on **April 1st** to mark the 88th anniversary of Odisha becoming a separate state in 1936.
- On **April 1, 1936**, the British Government officially separated Odisha from Bihar and Orissa Province, granting it independent administrative status.
- This remarkable achievement is celebrated every year as Odisha Statehood Day or Utkal Divas.
- The state was first called Utkala, meaning a land of skilled artisans.
- Odisha is mentioned in ancient texts as **Kantara and Indravana**, known for its gemstones.
- The state was officially renamed from Orissa to Odisha in 2011.

Shirley Botchwey Becomes First African Woman Secretary General of the Commonwealth



- Shirley Botchwey will assume office as the **7th Secretary-General of the Commonwealth.**
- With this, she will become the **first woman from Africa to hold this office.**
- She previously served as Ghana's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration from January 2017 to January 2024 and was also a member of Ghana's National Security Council.
- She replaced **Patricia Scotland** of Dominica, who was **the first-ever woman to serve as the Commonwealth Secretary General**
- The Secretary-General is nominated by Commonwealth leaders and can serve a maximum of two terms of four years each.

Poonam Gupta Appointed as RBI Deputy Governor Ahead of MPC

Meeting



- Ahead of the Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Committee meeting scheduled from 7th to 9th of April, the government has approved the appointment of **Poonam Gupta** as the new Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.
- She will succeed **Micheal Debabrata Patra**, who demitted office in January this year.
- Ms. Gupta's appointment for a period of three years from the date of joining or until further order, whichever is earlier.
- Governor: **Sanjay Malhotra**
- Deputy Governors: **M. Rajeshwar Rao, T. Rabi Sankar, Swaminathan J, Dr.**

Poonam Gupta

Dalai Lama Honored with Gold Mercury Award for Peace and Sustainability



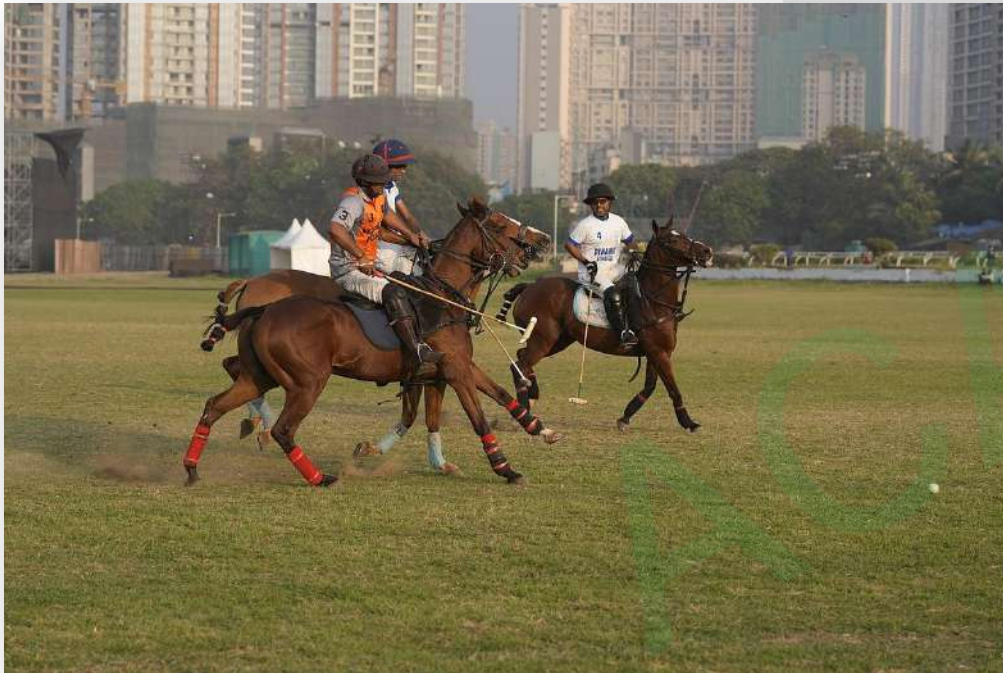
- Tibetan spiritual leader The **Dalai Lama** was honored with the **Gold Mercury Award for Peace and Sustainability** at a special ceremony held at his residence in **Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh**, on April 1, 2025.
- The award was presented by **Gold Mercury International**, a globally recognized think tank dedicated to promoting peace, governance, and sustainable development.
- The Gold Mercury Award is a prestigious international honor originally established in Italy.

Vandana Katariya Retires from International Hockey at the Peak of Her Career



- Two-time Olympian **Vandana Katariya** announced her retirement from international hockey
- The Indian hockey player scored 158 goals in 320 international matches after making her debut for India in 2009.
- She represented India at the **2020 Tokyo Olympics and Rio 2016 Olympics**
- She also represented Two FIH Hockey Women's World Cups in 2018 and 2022, three consecutive Commonwealth Games from 2014 to 2022 as well as three successive Asian Games from 2014 to 2022.
- **Arjuna Award in 2021**
- **Padma Shri in 2022.**

Rajnigandha Achievers Winner Of Aditya Birla Memorial Polo Cup 2025



- The **2025 Aditya Birla Memorial Polo Cup** concluded with a gripping final, where **Rajnigandha Achievers** defeated Jindal Panther to claim the title
- The prestigious cup was presented to the Rajnigandha Achievers by **Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar**
- The Aditya Birla Memorial Polo Cup is one of India's most prominent **polo tournaments**, with a rich history and a deep connection to the legacy of Shri Aditya Vikram Birla, a known lover of polo.

Kumbakonam Betel Leaf and Thovalai Flower Garland Receive GI Tag



- The **Kumbakonam betel leaf** and **Thovalai flower garland** from Tamil Nadu received Geographical Indication (GI) tags.
- This recognition ensures the protection of these products from misuse and promotes their unique qualities.
- With this addition, Tamil Nadu now boasts **62 GI products**.
- Famous in southern Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- **Uttar Pradesh** has now become the top state in India with 77 GI tags
- The **Kashi region alone has 32 GI tagged products** , making it one of the GI hubs of the world .

Free Bus Service for Women in Jammu & Kashmir



- Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister launched the **Zero-Ticket Travel Initiative**, enabling free bus travel for women across Jammu and Kashmir.
- He flagged off the initiative at the **Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC)**, taking a significant step toward gender-inclusive mobility.
- Lieutenant Governor: **Manoj Sinha**
- Chief Minister: **Omar Abdullah**

India Concludes Senior Asian Wrestling Championship With 10 Medals

- India finished the Asian Wrestling Championships 2025 in Amman, Jordan, with 10 medals- **one gold, three silver, and six bronze medals.**
- 30-member team (10 women, 10 men in freestyle, 10 men in Greco-Roman)
- The Indian team consisted of 2024 Paris Olympian and world bronze medalist **Antim Pangal**, former world U23 champion **Reetika**, and world U17 champion **Mansi Lather**.
- Gold- **Manisha Bhanwala** in the women's 62kg.
- Silver Medal
 - **Reetika Hooda** in the women's 76 kg division
 - **Udit** in the men's freestyle 61 kg
 - **Deepak Punia** in the men's freestyle 92 kg



PM Narendra Modi Conferred Sri Lanka's Highest Civilian Honour – Mithra Vibhushana



- The **Mithra Vibhushana medal**, specially instituted to recognise extraordinary global friendships, reflects the deep and historic relationship between the two countries.
- The honour was conferred during **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** maiden visit to Sri Lanka in his third term in office.
- President **Anura Kumara Dissanayake** personally conferred the award to PM Modi.
- Previous recipients include former Maldivian President **Maumoon Abdul Gayoom** and Palestinian leader **Yasser Arafat**.
- In March 2025, Mauritius awarded Modi its highest civilian honour, **the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star** and Key of the Indian Ocean during his visit to the country.

Seema Agrawal Named DGP of Fire and Rescue Services



- **Seema Agrawal**, a senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, has been appointed as the new Director-General of Police (DGP)/ Director of Fire and Rescue Services.
- She takes this position after the retirement of former **DGP Abhash Kumar** on March 31.
- Before this role, Seema Agrawal served as DGP of Civil Supplies

Bangladesh Takes Over Chairmanship of BIMSTEC for Next Two Years



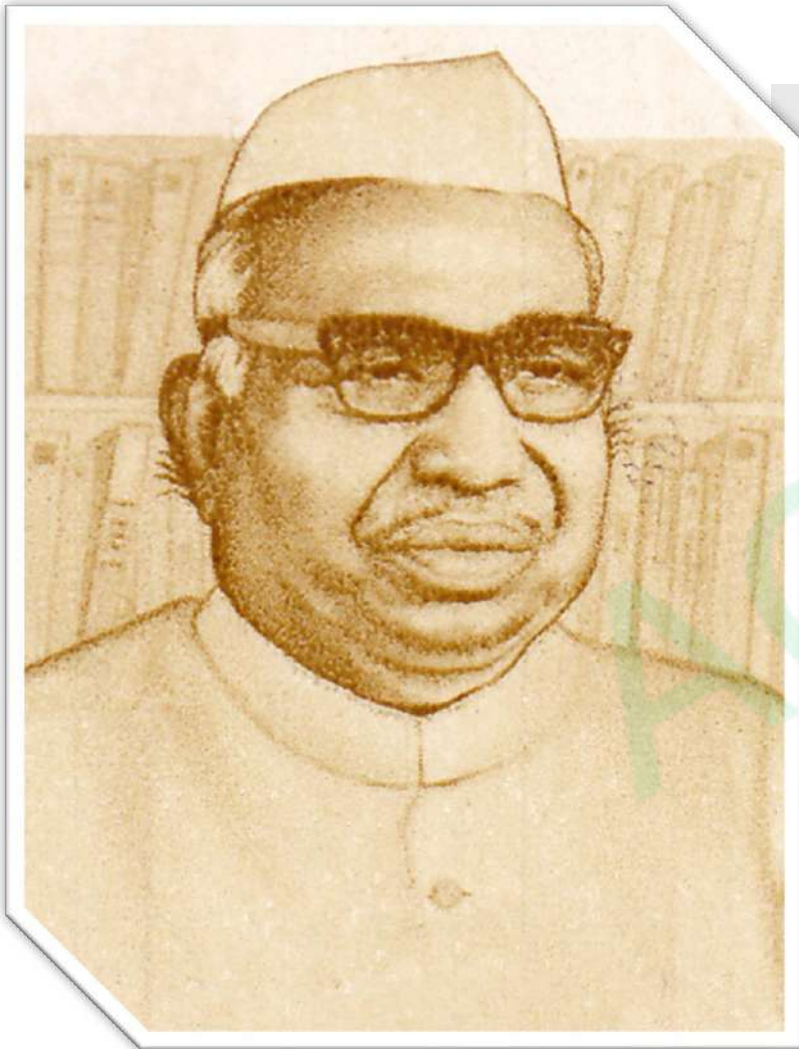
- Bangladesh assumed the chairmanship of the regional grouping – Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) – **for the next two years.**
- Upon receiving the Chairmanship from the **Prime Minister of Thailand**, Chief Adviser of Interim Government of Bangladesh **Muhammad Yunus** made a statement of acceptance, underscoring an inclusive and action-oriented Bimstec.
- The Sixth BIMSTEC Summit was held in **Bangkok, Thailand in 2025**
- Bimstec comprises seven countries of the Bay of Bengal region – **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand**

Stand-Up India Scheme Marks 7 Years of Empowering Marginalized Entrepreneurs



- Marking a significant milestone, the **Stand-Up India Scheme** has completed seven years since its launch on **April 5, 2016**.
- Initiated by the Ministry of Finance under the banner of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**, the scheme was designed to empower Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and women entrepreneurs by facilitating bank loans for setting up new enterprises.
- The total loan amount sanctioned increased from **Rs. 16,085.07 crore (March 31, 2019)** to **Rs. 61,020.41 crore (March 17, 2025)**.

Samata Diwas 2025: Observing Birth Anniversary Of Babu Jagjivan Ram



- **Samata Diwas** is celebrated every year on **April 5** to remember the birth anniversary of **Babu Jagjivan Ram**, a great leader and social reformer. He worked hard for equality and justice in society.
- Babu Jagjivan Ram, lovingly called “**Babuji**,” was a freedom fighter, a social justice leader and a great speaker.
- He worked for the rights of **depressed and backward classes**.
- He was also a **member of Parliament for 50 years** and served as a Union Minister for 30 years, which is a record in Indian politics.
- Babu Jagjivan Ram passed away on July 6, 1986. His cremation place is called ‘**Samata Sthal**’ in Delhi.

- He also served as the **Deputy Prime Minister** of India from January 1979 to July 1979.
- He served as a minister with various portfolios for over 30 years, making him the **longest-serving Union Cabinet minister in Indian history**
- He played a pivotal role as the **Defence Minister of India during the Indo-Pak War of 1971**, which led to the creation of Bangladesh.
- As Union **Agriculture Minister** during two separate tenures, he contributed significantly to the Green Revolution and the modernization of Indian agriculture, particularly during the 1974 drought when he was entrusted with addressing a severe food crisis
- In 1946, he became the **youngest minister in Jawaharlal Nehru's interim government**, the first cabinet of India as a Labour Minister and also a **member of the Constituent Assembly of India**, where he ensured that social justice was enshrined in the Constitution.

Haryana Declares Two Harappan Sites as Protected Archaeological Monuments



- The Haryana government has declared two Harappan civilisation sites in **Bhiwani district** as protected monuments and archaeological sites.
- The sites are located in the villages of **Tighrana and Mitathal**.
- These sites, **dating back over 4,400 years**, hold immense historical and cultural value, shedding light on the evolution of early agricultural societies, town planning, craft industries, and trade during the Harappan and post-Harappan periods
- The sites have now been brought under legal protection through a notification issued by the Haryana Heritage and Tourism Department under the **Haryana Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1964**.

- **Mitathal Village Site**

- it was first discovered in 1913 when coins of Samudra Gupta were found.
- Evidence of Harappan town planning, architecture, and arts was found.
- Items found include beads, bangles, terracotta, stone, shell, copper, ivory, and bone objects.

- **Tighrana Village Site**

- Tighrana Village Site contains post-Harappan remains, showing the continuity of human settlement.
- First inhabited around 2,400 BCE by Chalcolithic agricultural communities (Sothians).
- Engaged in agriculture and animal domestication, using wheel-made pottery with black-and-white designs.
- The site contains remains from Pre-Siswal, Pre-Harappan, and Post-Harappan periods.

Government Set To Implement “One State, One RRB”



- The Indian government is set to implement the “**One State, One RRB**” (Regional Rural Bank) policy to improve operational efficiency, reduce competition, and consolidate the existing **43 RRBs into 28**.
- **The Ministry of Finance** aims to streamline the functioning of these banks by merging smaller, less efficient ones, with the goal of enhancing their service delivery and cost-effectiveness.
- **Andhra Pradesh** has the maximum number of RRBs (4).
- As of March 31, 2024, 43 RRBs are operational across 22,069 branches in 26 states and 3 Union Territories, covering 700 districts.

Hitesh Gulia First Indian Boxer to Win Gold at the World Boxing Cup



- India's **Hitesh Gulia** bagged the Men's 70 kg Gold at the World Boxing Cup 2025 in Brazil
- He defeated **Odel Kamara** of England in the final.
- Meanwhile, another Indian Boxer **Abhinash Jamwal** clinched the silver medal at the men's 65 kg category
 - Abhinash lost to Yuri Reis of the host country, nil-5 in the final.
- Earlier, India's **Manish Rathore** won the bronze medal in the men's 55 kg category
- India sent a 10-member contingent to the tournament, marking their first major international competition since the Paris Olympics.

Meta rivals ChatGPT and Gemini with new Llama 4 models



- Mark Zuckerberg led Meta has launched its latest AI models in the **Llama 4 series** that will power its chatbot by the same name on WhatsApp, Instagram and other company services.
- This strategic release positions Meta to directly compete with leading AI platforms like **OpenAI's ChatGPT** and **Google's Gemini**, while also responding to emerging global players like **China's DeepSeek**.
- **Models Introduced**
 - **Scout** – Meta claims it is the best multimodal model available.
 - **Maverick** – Described as Meta's flagship AI assistant.
 - **Behemoth** – The most powerful LLM developed by Meta, intended to act as a teacher model.

DON'T WAIT FOR
OPPORTUNITY
CREATE IT

CURRENT AFFAIRS

2025

APRIL 6

World Health Day 2025



- World Health Day, observed annually on **7 April**
- The idea for World Health Day originated from the first World Health Assembly, held in **Geneva, Switzerland, in 1948.**
- It was founded by WHO in **1950**
- 2025 Theme: “**Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures**”
 - This year's theme will kick off a year-long campaign on maternal and newborn health.
- Over the past decade, India's health sector has made notable strides through initiatives like **Ayushman Bharat and the National Health Mission**, which have improved maternal and child health, expanded digital health access, and enhanced infrastructure and services.

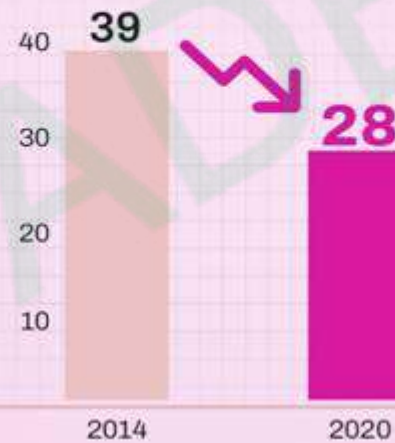
Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)

(Per 1,00,000 live births)



Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)

(Per 1,000 live births)



Under-5 Mortality Rate (U5MR)

(Per 1,000 live births)



“Women and Men in India 2024” Report Released by MoSPI



- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) of India has released its **26th edition of Women and Men in India 2024**
- The “Women and Men in India 2024” report highlights significant gender-specific advancements, such as improved education, labour force participation, financial inclusion, and political engagement
- **Labour Force Participation Rate**
 - The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for **individuals aged 15 and above rose** from 49.8% in 2017-18 to 60.1% in 2023-24.
 - This increase marks improved workforce participation among women, contributing to economic growth.

- **Stock Market Participation**

- The number of DEMAT accounts has surged from 33.26 million in March 2021 to 143.02 million by November 2024.
- Female accounts grew from 6.67 million to 27.71 million during the same period.

- **Female Entrepreneurship Growth**

- There is a notable rise in female-headed proprietary establishments in sectors like manufacturing and services.
- The number of startups with at least one woman director increased from 1,943 in 2017 to 17,405 in 2024.
- This trend reflects a positive shift towards female entrepreneurship.

- **Political Participation and Voter Turnout**

- The total number of electors in India has increased dramatically from 173.2 million in 1952 to 978 million in 2024.
- Female voter turnout reached 65.8% in 2024, slightly down from 67.2% in 2019.
- However, women outperformed men in voter turnout in the 2024 elections, indicating a narrowing gender gap.

- **Education and Gender Parity**

- The Gender Parity Index (GPI) for primary and higher secondary education remains high, indicating robust female enrolment.
- Although fluctuations occurred at the upper primary and elementary levels, gender parity has largely been maintained.

10 Years Of PM MUDRA Yojana



- On 8 April 2025, India marks **10 years** of the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY).
- MUDRA (**Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency**)
- Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), the Flagship Programme of the Prime Minister aimed at Funding the Unfunded micro enterprises and small businesses.
- By removing the burden of collateral and simplifying access, MUDRA laid the foundation for a new era of grassroots entrepreneurship.
- PMMY ensures collateral-free institutional credit up to Rs 20 lakh is provided **by Member Lending Institutions (MLIs)**

- **Types of Loans**
 - **Shishu: Loans up to Rs 50,000**
 - **Kishor: Loans between Rs 50,000 and Rs 5 lakh**
 - **Tarun: Loans between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 10 lakh**
 - **Tarun Plus: Loans above Rs. 10 lakhs and upto Rs. 20 lakhs.**

Decade of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana



Cumulative Outreach to **52 crore** MSE Borrower Accounts with Credit Support of **₹32.61 lakh crore**



Empowering Women with **68%** Loan Accounts belonging to Women Beneficiaries.



Addressing the Credit Needs of Weaker Sections with **50%** of the Loan Accounts belonging to SC/ST/OBC

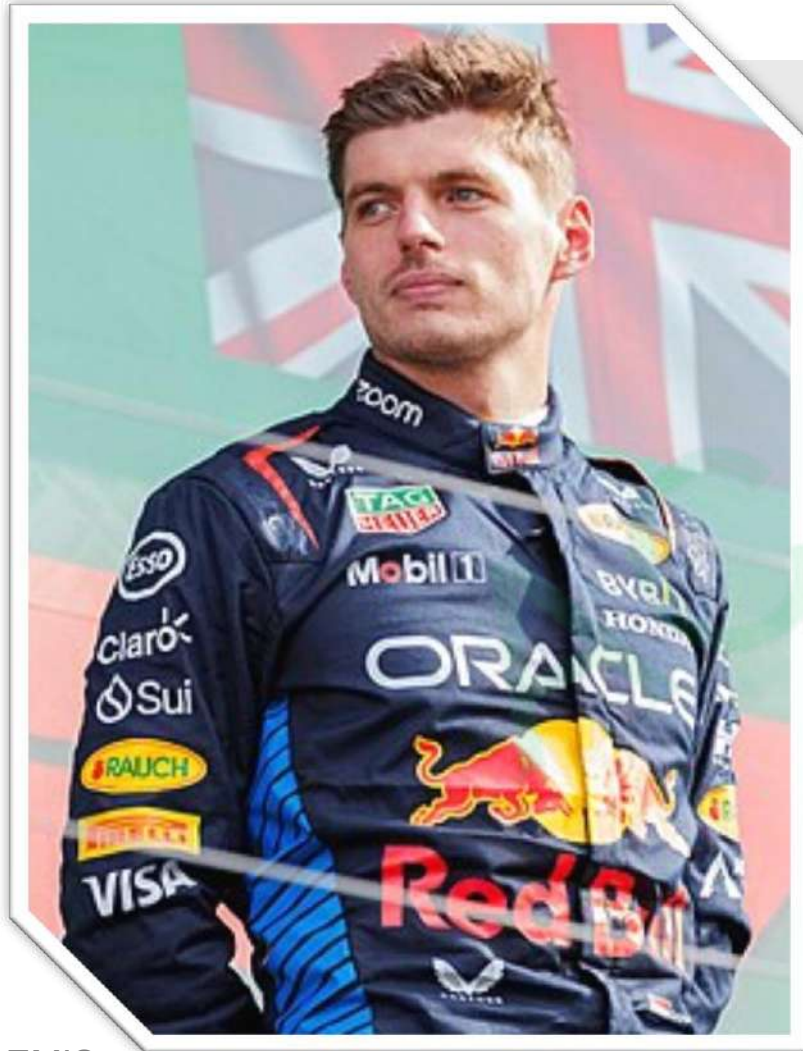
Brazil Proposes Global Climate Council Ahead of COP30



- **Brazil** has proposed the creation of a new international body to accelerate global climate action.
- The plan is shared ahead of this year's UN climate conference (Conference of the Parties – COP30) in **Belem, a city in northern Brazil**, in November 2025.
- The plan suggests forming a “**Climate Change Council**” under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- The council would **aim to fast-track decisions made at COP meetings**, better coordinate international efforts, and make climate action more effective.
- Brazil says the current process is too slow and complex.
- **Proposal remains informal, with discussions expected at COP30.**

Max Verstappen Triumphs at the Japanese GP for Fourth Consecutive

Win



- **Max Verstappen** clinched his first victory of the 2025 Formula 1 season at the **Japanese Grand Prix**.
- Max Verstappen Triumphs at the Japanese GP for **Fourth Consecutive Win**
- Max Verstappen is a Dutch and **Belgian racing driver** who competes under the **Dutch flag** in Formula One for Red Bull Racing.
- Verstappen has won four Formula One World Drivers' Championship titles, which he won consecutively from **2021 to 2024**
- This race was also significant for Red Bull, marking their last race with Honda power engine

Virat Kohli Becomes First Indian to Score 13,000 Runs in T20 Cricket



- **Virat Kohli** has once again demonstrated his enduring class by becoming the **first Indian to surpass the 13,000-run mark in T20 cricket**.
- The milestone, achieved during an IPL 2025 clash between RCB and MI, places Kohli among the top five T20 run-scorers globally.
- He became the fifth player overall to reach the landmark, behind **Chris Gayle, Alex Hales, Shoaib Malik and Kieron Pollard**.
- In the 2025 season, virat etched his name into the record books by becoming the first player ever to register **a combined total of 1000 fours and sixes in IPL history**.

Mahavir Jayanti 2025



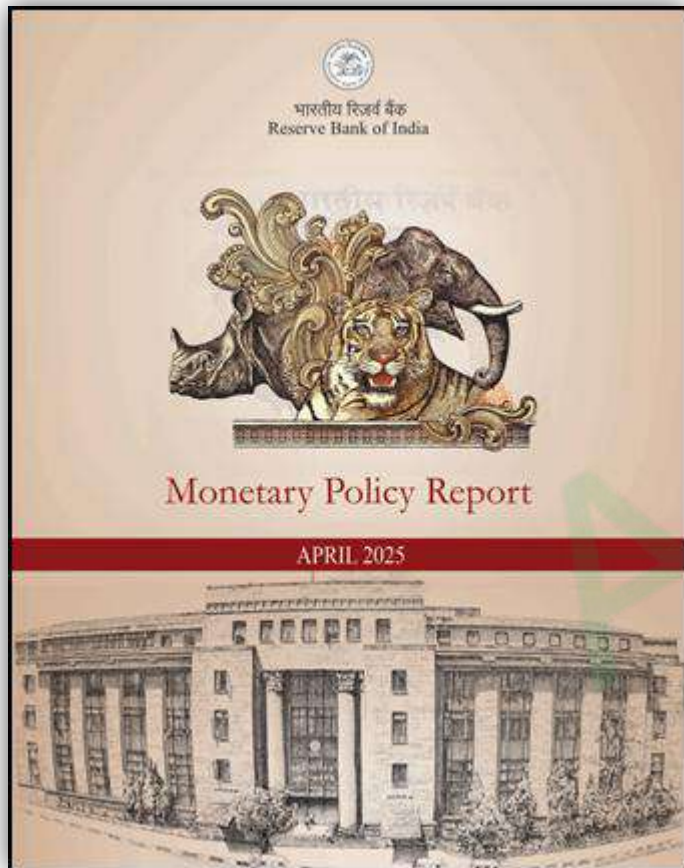
- **On 10th April 2025**, the 2623th birth anniversary of Jainism's Tirthankara Lord Mahavir Swami Ji was celebrated in **Bihar**.
- **Mahavir Jayanti** is one of the most sacred festivals in the **Jain community**.
- This day marks the birth of **Vardhamana Mahavira**, the **24th or last Tirthankara**.
- According to Jain texts, He was born on the **13th day of the Shukla Paksha of the Chaitra month**
- Lord Mahavir, birth name **Vardhamana** was born in the present day Vaishali district in Bihar, India.

Ram Sahay Pandey Folk Dancer Passed Away



- Internationally renowned folk dance artist **Ram Sahay Panday**, a Padma Shri recipient died
- He got **Rai dance** recognized in 24 countries and established the **Bundelkhandi Lok Nritya Natya Kala Parishad**.
 - Rai dance is the most famous dance of Bundelkhand.
- Honored with **Padma Shri in 2022** for promoting Rai dance.
- Received the title '**Nritya Shiromani**' in **1980**.

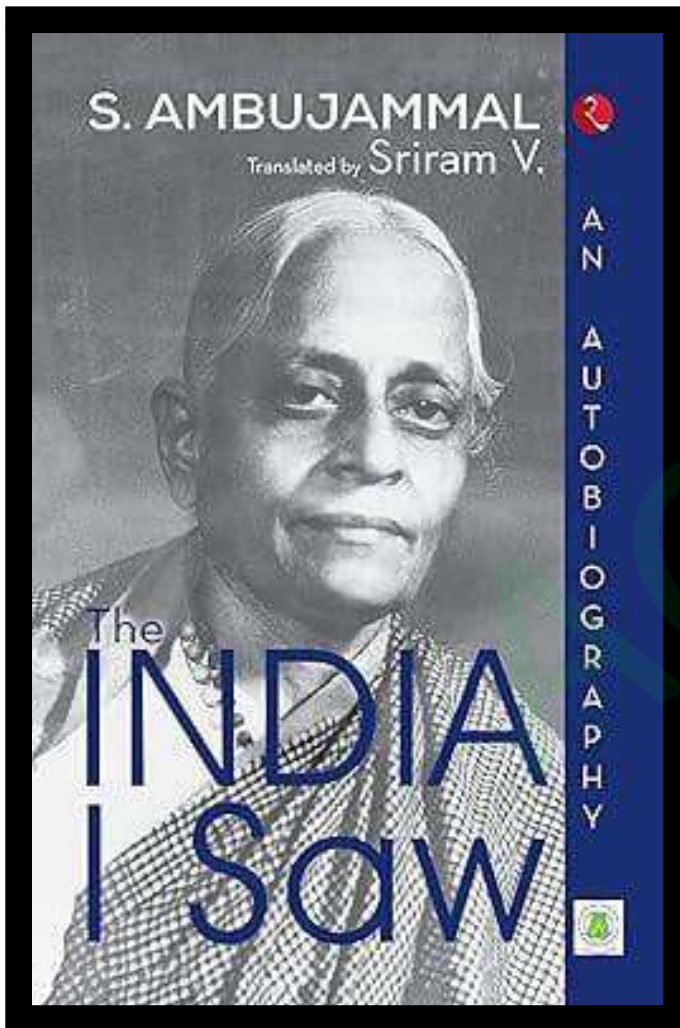
RBI Monetary Policy 2025



- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), in its 54th meeting and the first of the financial year 2025–26, unanimously decided to **reduce the policy repo rate by 25 basis points**, bringing it down to 6 per cent with immediate effect.
- The repo rate is the **rate at which the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lends money to commercial banks**, and a cut in this rate is aimed at boosting lending and investment.
- This marks the second consecutive rate cut since February.
- The Reserve Bank of India has projected real **GDP growth at 6.5 per cent** for 2025–26, maintaining the same rate as estimated for 2024–25, following a strong expansion of 9.2 per cent in the preceding year.

- As a result, the **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)** rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) has been adjusted to **5.75 per cent**.
 - The SDF allows banks to park excess funds with the RBI without any collateral.
- The **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)** rate and the Bank Rate have both been revised to **6.25 per cent**.
 - MSF stands for Marginal Standing Facility, a provision made by the RBI that enables scheduled commercial banks to obtain overnight liquidity if inter-bank funds completely dry up.
 - It is an emergency facility that allows banks to borrow at a rate higher than the repo rate.
- These rate adjustments are consistent with the RBI's objective of achieving the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** inflation target of 4 per cent, within a flexible band of ± 2 per cent, while also supporting economic growth.
- **Bank Rate- 6.25%**
- **Fixed Reverse Repo Rate- 3.35%**

The India I Saw: A Glimpse into the Life of S. Ambujammal



- **Ambujammal** was an Indian independence activist and women's rights activist.
- A Gandhian, she participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement and served as vice-president of the **Tamil Nadu Congress Committee**.
- Ambujammal was awarded the **Padma Shri in 1964**.
- S Ambujammal's autobiography, **Nan Kanda Bharatham**
- Naan Kanda Bharatham, translated into English as **The India I Saw**, presents her profound journey through India's socio-political landscape

President Droupadi Murmu Conferred Honorary Doctorate in Slovakia



- **President Droupadi Murmu** was honored with an Honorary Doctorate by **Constantine The Philosopher University in Nitra**, Slovakia on the final day of her four-day state visit to Slovakia and Portugal.
- The prestigious recognition was awarded for her distinguished public service, commitment to social justice, and her advocacy for education, women's empowerment, and cultural preservation
- Named after **Saint Constantine Cyril**, a key figure in Slovak history and Slavic cultural heritage
- Previous honoree includes former Brazilian President **Fernando Henrique**

Cardoso (2002)

Japan Builds World's First 3D-Printed Train Station in Record Time

- Japan has successfully built the world's first 3D-printed train station, the **Hatsushima Station**, in just under six hours.
- The project, undertaken by West Japan Railway Company (JR West) and Serendix, replaces an old wooden station and demonstrates the potential of 3D printing for rapid and innovative infrastructure development.
- The original station building was built in **1948**.
- Station opening scheduled for **July 2025**.



Kerala & Tamil Nadu Unite for Nilgiri Tahr Census 2025



- In a major collaborative conservation effort, the states of **Kerala and Tamil Nadu** are set to conduct a synchronised **Nilgiri Tahr census** from April 24 to 27, 2025.
- This joint operation is being undertaken to mark the **50th anniversary of Eravikulam National Park**, home to the largest known population of the Nilgiri Tahr, a vulnerable and endemic species of the Western Ghats.
- The Nilgiri Tahr (***Nilgiritragus hylocrius***) is endemic to southern India and the state animal of Tamil Nadu.
- According to the recent survey, there are **about 1,229 Nilgiri Tahrs in Tamil Nadu and around 827 in Kerala.**

First Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) Report Released



- The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** has released the first Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) report, which assesses the progress of over 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats across India
- The report, focusing on the FY 2022-23 period, identifies **Gujarat and Telangana** as front-runners
- Designed to evaluate localised achievements on **nine Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** at the grassroots level.
- Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) is a composite Index & has been compiled based on **435 unique local Indicators** (331 mandatory & 104 optional)

Indicator Framework used for PAI Score Calculation 2022-23



Theme	Indicator Count	Total Data Points
Theme 1 - Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihoods Panchayat	32	60
Theme 2 - Healthy Panchayat	21	42
Theme 3 - Child Friendly Panchayat	82	143
Theme 4 - Water Sufficient Panchayat	21	34
Theme 5 - Clean and Green Panchayat	33	58
Theme 6 - Self-sufficient Infrastructure in Panchayat	159	189
Theme 7 - Socially Just and Socially Secured Panchayat	62	100
Theme 8 - Panchayat with Good Governance	62	87
Theme 9 - Women Friendly Panchayat	44	81
Total	516	794

Unique Indicator	Mandatory Indicator	Optional Indicator	Unique Data Points	Numeric Indicators	Binary Indicators
435	331	104	566	207	228

UK Set to Host the 2035 FIFA Women's World Cup



- The **2031** and **2035** women's football World Cups are set to take place in the **USA and the UK**
- FIFA announced that the **sole bids** for the 2031 and 2035 women's football tournaments were submitted by the United States and United Kingdom, respectively.
- It would be the **third time that the US** has hosted the women's football tournament.
- It would be the **first World Cup football played on English soil since the 1966** men's edition, while the men's Euros will be hosted in the UK and Ireland in 2028.
- The next women's World Cup will take place in **Brazil in 2027**

Mauritius Becomes First African Country to Sign ISA's Country

Partnership Framework



- **Mauritius** has become the first African country to sign a Country Partnership Framework (CPF) with the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**.
- It is also the fourth country globally, after **Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Cuba**, to sign the CPF.
- This partnership aims to provide a structured approach for collaboration between ISA and Mauritius on solar energy initiatives, aligning with the country's national priorities.
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a treaty-based intergovernmental organization, launched in **2015 by India and France**, aimed at promoting solar energy as a sustainable solution for energy access and climate change, with the goal of mobilizing USD 1 trillion in solar investments by 2030.

Madhya Pradesh Declares New Wildlife Sanctuary Named After Dr. B.R. Ambedkar



- **Madhya Pradesh** has declared a new wildlife sanctuary in Sagar district, named **Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar** Abhyaran
- This is the **25th wildlife sanctuary in the state.**
- The sanctuary is dedicated to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and aims to enhance wildlife conservation and honor his legacy
- The announcement has come ahead of **Ambedkar's 134th birth anniversary, celebrated on April 14.**
- Madhya Pradesh is also recognized as the “**Tiger State of India**”, with several renowned national parks and wildlife reserves such as **Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Satpura, and Panna Tiger Reserves.**

Cricket at LA 2028 Olympics



- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has officially approved the return of cricket to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games, featuring **six men's and six women's** T20 teams, each with 15 players.
- This decision marks a major milestone for the sport, which **last appeared in the Olympics 128 years ago.**
- The sport, absent from the Olympics for over a century, last featured at **Paris 1900**, where a one-off, two-day match between **Great Britain and France** was held
- **India (men) and New Zealand (women)** are the current T20 world champions.
- A men's cricket tournament was held at the **1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur** while the **women's game made its CWG debut at Birmingham 2022.**

James Anderson Awarded Knighthood Honour



- Former England fast bowler **James Anderson** has been awarded a knighthood for his services to Cricket as part of former **British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's resignation honours list**.
- Anderson is the only sportsperson who has made it to the list.
- The 42 year old English seamer retired from Test cricket last summer with 704 wickets, making him England's all-time leading wicket-taker the format.
- He ranks behind **Muttiah Muralitharan (800)** and **Shane Warne (708)**

Padma Shri Awardee Daripalli Ramaiah (“Vanajeevi”) Dies at 87



- **Daripalli Ramaiah**, a dedicated environmentalist and Padma Shri awardee, passed away at the age of 87 in Khammam, Telangana.
- Known as “**Vanajeevi**” or “**Chettu Ramaiah**”, he was celebrated for planting over one crore saplings over several decades.
- He was honored with the **Padma Shri Award in 2017 for his contribution to environmental conservation.**
- **2005- Vanamitra Award**

Milkfed Launches 'Veera' Mascot for Verka to Boost Nationwide

Presence



- In Punjab, Milkfed, the seventh largest Punjab-based milk cooperative of India, has launched its mascot '**Veera**' for its dairy brand 'Verka' to popularise its products and boost sales across the country.
- The mascot, Veera, which means brother, depicts a smiling young Sikh boy extending greetings with folded hands.
- As per Chief Minister **Bhagwant Singh Mann**, Verka products will now be available on online platforms

Oscar Piastri Wins 2025 Bahrain Grand Prix



- **Oscar Piastri** has become the first multiple race winner of the 2025 season by taking a sublime victory in the Bahrain Grand Prix
- The 2025 Bahrain Grand Prix (officially known as the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2025) was a Formula One motor race that was held on 13 April 2025 at the **Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir, Bahrain.**
- It was the fourth round of the 2025 Formula One World Championship.
- Oscar Jack Piastri is an **Australian racing driver** who competes in Formula One for McLaren.
- Piastri has won six Formula One Grands Prix across three seasons.



DON'T WAIT FOR
OPPORTUNITY
CREATE IT

CURRENT AFFAIRS

2025

EDUCATION REDEFINED

MAY 1

Archery World Cup 2025



- The Indian archers finished their campaign at the Archery World Cup 2025 Stage 1 with four medals—**one gold, one silver and two bronze**.
- India also finished **fourth in the medal tally** behind Mexico, China, and the USA.
- The first stage of the 2025 Archery World Cup was held in **Auburndale, Florida, in the United States of America** from 8-13 April 2025.
- **Rishabh Yadav and Jyothi Surekha Vennam** won the gold for India in the Compound mixed team competition.
- **Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai and Atanu Das**, lost to the Chinese team of Wang Yan, Li Zhongyuan and Kao Wenchao and settle for the silver medal.
- Stage 2- Shanghai, China- 6-11 May 2025

Carlos Alcaraz Wins 2025 Monte Carlo Masters



- **Carlos Alcaraz** survived a slow start to beat Lorenzo Musetti and claim his first Monte Carlo Masters title
- Since last year's **French Open**, Alcaraz now has a singles record of 17-1 on clay.
- The sole defeat was at the hands of **Novak Djokovic** in the Paris 2024 Olympic final.
- Alcaraz has won 20 ATP Tour-level singles titles, including five major titles and seven ATP 1000 titles.
- **French Open:** 2024, 2025
- **Wimbledon:** 2023, 2024
- **US Open:** 2022

India Finishes Second Overall in First ISSF World Cup 2025



- India showcased a powerful start to the international shooting season, securing the second position overall in the first **ISSF World Cup 2025** for rifle, pistol, and shotgun disciplines.
- India finished **second overall** in the first ISSF World Cup 2025, held in Buenos Aires, securing a total of 8 medals: **4 gold, 2 silver, and 2 bronze**.
- The first ISSF World Cup of 2025 was held from April 1 to April 10.
- **Vijayveer Sidhu** became the first Indian to win gold in the Men's 25m Rapid-Fire Pistol event at any ISSF World Cup.
- 1st Place: **China** with 11 medals (5 gold, 3 silver, 3 bronze)

- **Gold Medals**

- Sift Kaur Samra – Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions
- Rudrankksh Patil – Men's 10m Air Rifle
- Suruchi – Women's 10m Air Pistol
- Vijayveer Sidhu – Men's 25m Rapid-Fire Pistol

- **Silver Medals**

- Esha Singh – Women's 25m Pistol

- **Bronze Medals**

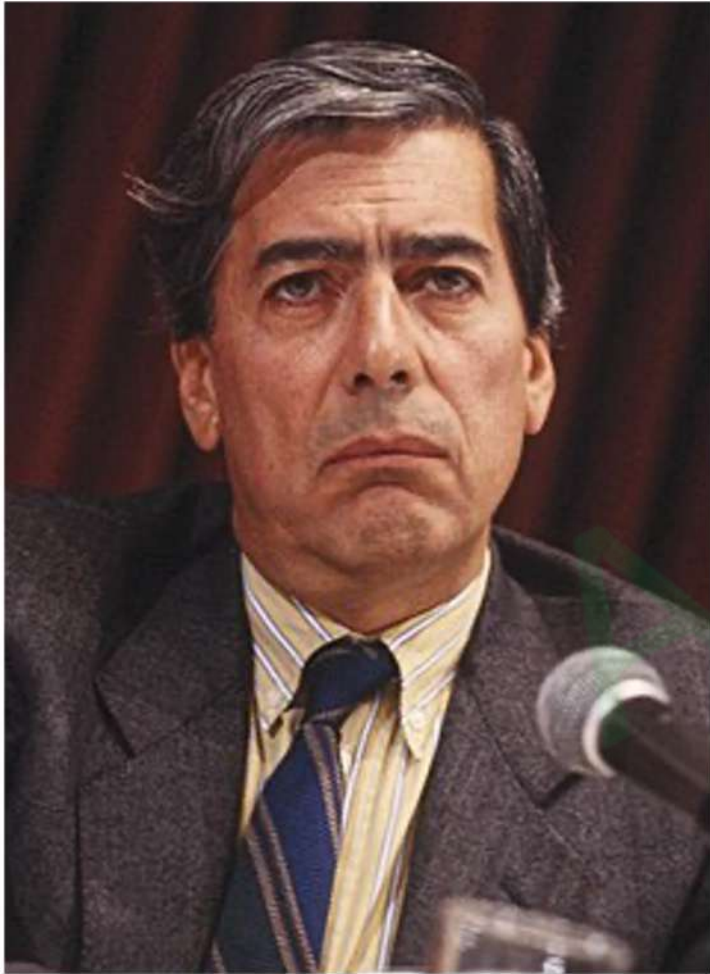
- Suruchi & Saurabh Chaudhary – Mixed Team Air Pistol

Kumudini Lakhia Kathak Legend Passed Away



- **Kumudini Lakhia** is an Indian Kathak dancer and choreographer based in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- She founded **Kadamb School of Dance and Music**, an institute of Indian dance music in 1967.
- Kumudini Lakhia, often hailed as **India's own Martha Graham**, rewrote the language of Kathak
- **Padma Shri** by the Government of India in 1987
- **Padma Bhushan** in 2010
- **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** by Sangeet Natak Akademi in 1982
- **Kalidas Samman** for the year 2002-03
- **Padma Vibhushan** for year 2025 for her contribution in the field of Art

Mario Vargas Llosa A Noble Award Winner Passed Away



- Mario Vargas Llosa, the renowned Peruvian novelist, essayist, and journalist, passed away on April 14, 2025.
- A towering figure in Latin American literature, Vargas Llosa was awarded the **Nobel Prize in Literature in 2010** for his profound exploration of the structures of power and the individual's struggle against it.
- Notable Works:
 - *The Time of the Hero (1963), The Green House (1965), The War of the End of the World (1981), The Feast of the Goat (2000), Harsh Times (2019)*
- Awarded hereditary nobility by Spain in 2011, given the title of **Marquess of Vargas Llosa**.

SC Laid Down 3 Month Deadline For President To Assent Bill Reserved By Governor



- The Supreme Court (SC) of India, in the ***State of Tamil Nadu vs. Governor of Tamil Nadu, 2023*** has, for the first time, laid down a **3-month deadline for the President to decide on Bills** referred by the Governor under **Article 201 of the Constitution**.
- Additionally, the Court advised that the President ought to seek the opinion of the **Supreme Court under Article 143** in cases where a Bill is reserved for perceived unconstitutionality.
- This judgment is a significant step toward safeguarding the spirit of cooperative federalism and curbing executive arbitrariness.

- The SC held that the President cannot exercise an “absolute veto” by **indefinitely delaying assent**.
- A decision must be made within three months, and any delay must be reasoned and communicated to the State.
- The Apex Court set aside **Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi’s decision** to withhold assent to 10 pending Bills and, in the process, ruled that the President should also not take more than three months in arriving at a decision on Bills referred by Governors.
- Article 200 empowers the **Governor to give assent to the Bills presented to him, withhold the assent, or reserve it** for the consideration of the President.
- SC Interpretation of **Article 201**
 - When a Governor reserves a Bill for the President’s consideration, the President must act **within 3 months**.
 - Earlier, no timeline existed, causing legislative paralysis and uncertainty.
 - The Court held that indefinite delay is unconstitutional and violates the principle of non-arbitrariness.

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee Will Inaugurate Jagannath Temple in Digha



- West Bengal Chief **Minister Mamata Banerjee** inaugurated the magnificent Jagannath Dham temple in the tourist town of **Digha**, a stunning replica of the iconic Jagannath Temple in Puri.
- The Jagannath temple at Puri is worshipped for centuries by Hindus as one of the **Char Dhams (four abodes)** of Lord Vishnu.
- The temple is sacred to the **Vaishnava tradition** of Hindus and has been constructed as a replica of the famous Jagannath Temple in Puri, Odisha.
- The project was announced in 2018, construction commenced in 2022, and the temple was officially inaugurated on 30 April 2025.

Mohun Bagan Wins ISL 2024-25



- **Mohun Bagan Super Giant** clinched the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 title following a 2-1 victory over Bengaluru FC at the **Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan Stadium** in Kolkata.
- This was **Mohun Bagan's second ISL title**, following their maiden triumph in the 2022-23 season.
- They also became only the second team, after **Mumbai City FC** in 2020-21, to win both the **League Winners Shield** and the **ISL Cup** in the same season.
- **2023-24:**
 - Mohun Bagan(Shield Winner)
 - Mumbai City (Cup Winner)

Logo unveiled for Khelo India Youth Games 2025



- **Bihar** will host the seventh edition of Khelo India Youth Games 2025 from 4th to 15th May.
- The games will be organised at various cities including **Patna, Gaya, Rajgir, Begusarai and Bhagalpur**.
- Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar** and Union Sports Minister **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** unveiled the mascot and logo of Khelo India Youth Games 2025
- The mascot Khelo India will be “ **Gajsimha**” which symbolizes the power of elephant and heart of lion.
- The mascot has been derived from the archival heritage of Pala dynasty from Nalanda and Bodhgaya engraved on temples and their pillars.

ICC Player of the Month for March



- India's **Shreyas Iyer** won the ICC Men's Player of the Month Award for March, following a successful outing with the bat at the Champions Trophy 2025
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) also revealed the March Women's Players of the Month with Australia's **Georgia Voll** winning the crown.
- Iyer made it successive honours for India following **Shubman Gill's win in February.**
- Voll became the **fourth consecutive Australian female** to be named the Women's Player of the Month.

Mirabai Chanu Appointed Chairperson of IWLF Athletes Commission



- Olympic silver medallist **Saikhom Mirabai Chanu** was chosen as the Chairperson of the newly established Athletes Commission under the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF).
- Commonwealth Games gold medallist **S. Sathish Kumar** will be the vice-chairperson.
- Their term will last **four years**.
- Sathish had clinched a **gold medal in weightlifting at the 2018 Commonwealth Games** in Gold Coast.
- Olympic Medal for Mirabai Chanu: **Silver at Tokyo 2020 (held in 2021)**

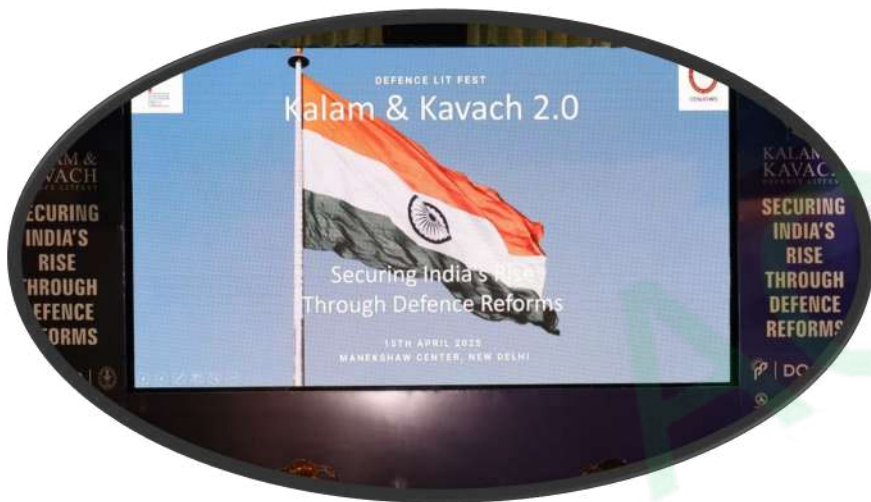
Justice BR Gavai Next CJI of India as Successor to Chief Justice Sanjiv

Khanna



- Chief Justice of India (CJI) **Sanjiv Khanna** named Justice B R Gavai, the second-most senior judge of the Supreme Court, as his successor.
- This announcement was made through a letter to the Union Law Ministry, and after government approval, Justice Gavai is set to become **the 52nd CJI of India.**
- Justice Gavai, who was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2019, will take office as CJI after the retirement of CJI Khanna on May 13, 2025.
- Justice Gavai was part of the majority verdict that upheld the Government of India's decision to demonetize **Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes in 2016.**
- Sub-Categorization of Scheduled Castes and Tribes (August 2024)

Defence Literature Festival 'Kalam & Kavach 2.0'



- The **Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS)**, under the aegis of the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) of the Ministry of Defence, in collaboration with Pentagon Press, hosted the second edition of the Defence Literature Festival '**Kalam & Kavach 2.0**' in New Delhi
- The event, held at the Manekshaw Centre, revolved around the theme, '**Securing India's Rise through Defence Reforms**', aligning with the Prime Minister's vision for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-reliant India).
- Shri Rajnath Singh declared 2025 as the **Year of Reforms for the Indian Armed Forces**

Blue Origin Completes Historic All-Female Spaceflight In April 2025



- Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket successfully completed a historic suborbital spaceflight featuring an all-female crew, the first of its kind since 1963, when Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman in space.
- The launch took place from Van Horn, Texas, and included six prominent women from diverse fields.
- The mission featured six prominent female passengers including pop star **Katy Perry** and CBS Mornings host **Gayle King**.
- Led by **Lauren Sánchez**, Jeff Bezos's fiancée, the crew briefly crossed the Kármán line—the internationally recognized boundary of space—experiencing approximately three minutes of weightlessness before returning safely to Earth aboard Blue Origin's New Shepard spacecraft.

India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise DUSTLIK-VI Begins at Aundh, Pune



- The 6th edition of the India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise, **DUSTLIK-VI**, has commenced at the Foreign Training Node in **Aundh, Pune**
- The previous edition took place in **Termez District, Uzbekistan**, in April 2024.
- The Indian contingent includes 60 personnel from a battalion of the JAT Regiment and the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- The Uzbekistan Army is representing the Uzbek side.

Banaras Shehnai and Banaras Tabla have received the prestigious GI Tag.



- The iconic **Banaras Shehnai and Banaras Tabla** have received the prestigious GI Tag.
- The rich musical legacy and cultural roots are now officially recognized and protected resonating not just in India, but across the globe! A proud moment for Indian classical music and artisans of Varanasi.
- Banaras Shehnai is a traditional wind instrument deeply rooted in the Banaras Gharana of Indian classical music.
- It gained national prominence through **Ustad Bismillah Khan**, who famously played the shehnai at the Red Fort on India's first Independence Day.

SC Issued Guidelines to Child Trafficking

- The Supreme Court today laid down stringent guidelines for the prevention and expedited trial of **child trafficking related offences across the country.**
- The Bench of **Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan** directed High Courts across the country to issue directions to lower courts to complete trials in child trafficking cases in **six months.**
- The top court also mandated that such cases be heard on a day-to-day basis to prevent delays in justice.
- The court criticised the Uttar Pradesh government's handling of child trafficking cases and the Allahabad High Court for issuing bail to child trafficking accused.



2025 Gabonese presidential election



- A presidential election was held in **Gabon** on 12 April 2025.
- They were the first election in the country since the **Bongo dynasty** was overthrown in the 2023 coup after 56 years in power.
- Incumbent transitional president **Brice Oligui Nguema** ran as an Independent, under his Rally of Builders platform
- Oligui was proclaimed the winner of the elections, receiving 90% of the votes, while his main opponent **Alain Claude Bilie By Nze** received 3%

**ALWAYS
STAY
POSITIVE**

CURRENT AFFAIRS

2025

MAY 2

Bhagavad Gita & Natyashastra Added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register



- The **Bhagavad Gita and Natyashastra** have been added to UNESCO's **Memory of the World (MoW) Register**, which preserves documentary heritage of global significance.
- The **Bhagavad Gita**, a 700-verse philosophical dialogue attributed to sage Vyasa, is embedded in the Mahabharata's Bhishma Parva.
- The **Natyashastra**, attributed to sage Bharata, is an ancient Sanskrit treatise on the performing arts with around 36,000 verses.
- Launched in 1992, UNESCO's **MoW Programme** aims to preserve world heritage in manuscripts, oral traditions, audiovisuals, and archives.
- Updated biennially, it currently includes **570 entries**, with notable Indian entries such as **Rig Veda (2005)**, **Abhinavagupta's Works (2023)**, and **NAM Summit Archives (2023)**.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicates Vizhinjam International Seaport to the nation



- Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi** dedicated Vizhinjam International Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport worth Rs 8,800 crore to the nation in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.**
- It is **India's first deep-water transshipment port**, designed for container and multi-purpose cargo.
- The port is developed under the **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** on a Design, Build, Finance, Operate, and Transfer (DBFOT) basis.
- Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model between the **Adani Group and the Kerala government**

PM State Visit to Saudi Arabia



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a state visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and chaired the **2nd meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council (SPC)**.
- Saudi Arabia's commitment to invest USD 100 billion in India spans sectors like **energy, infrastructure, tech, and health**.
- MoU between **Saudi Space Agency and Department of Space of India** for cooperation in space activities for peaceful purposes.
- India and Saudi Arabia established diplomatic ties in **1947**, with key milestones including the **Delhi Declaration (2006)** and the **Riyadh Declaration (2010)** during PM Manmohan Singh's visit, which elevated ties to a Strategic Partnership.

Maharashtra Designates DPS Flamingo Lake as Conservation Reserve



- In a significant move for wildlife conservation in urban India, the Maharashtra State Wildlife Board has officially declared **DPS Flamingo Lake** as a conservation reserve
- This landmark decision marks the first time a wetland connected to the Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary has received such protection.
- The approval occurred during a board meeting led by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.
- This initiative aims to safeguard the fragile wetland ecosystem of Navi Mumbai.

Amaravati: World's First Fully Renewable-Powered City



- **Amaravati**, the upcoming capital of Andhra Pradesh, is **set to make history** as the first city globally to operate entirely on renewable energy.
- This ambitious project aims to harness **2,700 megawatts of green energy** through **solar, wind, and hydropower**.
- The initiative aligns with India's commitment to clean energy and climate action.
- The foundation stone for this eco-friendly city is expected to be laid by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**

Justice Dinesh Maheshwari Appointed Chairperson of the 23rd Law Commission of India



- The Central Government has appointed former Supreme Court (SC) judge, **Justice Dinesh Maheshwari**, as chairman of the 23rd Law Commission.
- The commission was notified on September 2 last year and will function for three years till **August 2027**.
- Its role includes submitting a report on **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**, studying laws affecting the poor, and identifying laws that hinder India's economic growth.
- The 23rd Law Commission will have one chairman, **four full-time members including a member secretary, two secretaries from the Law Ministry, and up to five part-time members.**
- Justice Maheshwari retired from the Supreme Court in May 2023.

- Four full-time members:
 - Including **Hitesh Jain** (a lawyer) and **P. Verma** (an academician who was also part of the 22nd Law Commission)
- Two ex-officio members:
 - From the **Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department**
- In addition, the government may appoint up to five part-time members, and serving judges, if included, will function as full-time members until their retirement or end of the Commission's term.
- The previous 22nd Law Commission was headed by Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, who left early after being appointed as a member of the Lokpal.

Indian Air Force Joins Multinational 'Desert Flag-10' Exercise in UAE



- A contingent of the Indian Air Force reached Al Dhafra Air Base in the **United Arab Emirates** to participate in Exercise Desert Flag-10.
- The exercise is being hosted by the UAE Air Force, with participating contingents from the air forces of **Australia, Bahrain, France, Germany, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Republic of Korea, Turkey, UAE, United Kingdom, and United States of America** in addition to the **Indian Air Force**
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) deployed **MiG-29 and Jaguar aircraft**, showcasing its frontline combat capabilities.
- India's Exercises with the UAE: **Desert Cyclone (Land-based Military Exercise), Desert Eagle (Bilateral Air Force Combat Exercise), Zayed Talwar (Bilateral Naval Exercise), and Desert Knight (Trilateral Air Force Exercise with France).**

INS Sunayna Arrives at Mozambique's Nacala Port: Strengthening India-Africa Maritime Cooperation



- The Indian Navy's warship **INS Sunayna** has docked at Nacala Port in Mozambique, as part of its ongoing deployment under the **Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR mission**.
- The vessel's arrival in Mozambique follows its recent participation in the inaugural session of the India-Africa maritime partnership exercise **AIKEYME 25** held in **Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania**.
- The ship was flagged off on her mission from Karwar on 05 Apr 25 by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri.
- She had embarked 44 naval personnel from nine friendly foreign nations, including **Comoros, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Mauritius, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Madagascar and Maldives**, on her departure from India.

India Imposes 12% Tariff on Steel Imports



- In a decisive step to protect its domestic steel industry, the Government of India has announced the imposition of a **12% provisional safeguard duty on select categories of steel imports.**
- The decision, which came into effect **on April 21, 2025**, is aimed at countering a surge in low-cost steel imports, especially from China, South Korea, and Japan.
- India's steel imports have been on the rise in recent years.
- In the financial year 2024–25, India imported approximately **9.5 million metric tons of finished steel**, the highest volume in nearly a decade.

Laureus World Sports Awards 2025



- The Laureus World Sports Awards is an annual award ceremony honouring **individuals and teams** from the world of sports along with sporting achievements throughout the year.
- It was established in **1999** by **Laureus Sport for Good Foundation**
- The 2025 Laureus World Sports Awards celebrated its **25th anniversary with a grand ceremony in Madrid**
- The Laureus World Sports Awards, often dubbed the “**Oscars of Sports**”, celebrated the most remarkable athletes and sporting achievements of the past year.

- **Mondo Duplantis**, the 25-year-old Swedish-American pole vaulter, was named Laureus World Sportsman of the Year, a title he clinched for the first time after being nominated three years in a row.
- After a period of absence from competition, **Simone Biles** was honoured with the Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year Award, making it her fourth win, a feat that equals **Serena Williams'** record.
 - **Simone Biles** - Artistic Gymnast of the United States of America.
- **Biles and Duplantis** both previously earned the Comeback of the Year honour, showcasing their resilience.

- World Team of the Year: **Real Madrid**- It is a Spanish football club.
- Breakthrough of the Year: **Lamine Yamal**- Spain- Football
- Comeback of the Year: **Rebeca Andrade**- Brazil- Gymnastic
- Sportsperson with a Disability: **Jiang Yuyan**- China- Para-Swimmer
- Action Sportsperson of the Year: **Tom Pidcock**- United Kingdom- Mountain Bike
- Sport for Good Award: **Kick4Life- Lesotho**- Teaches football to girls in Lesotho
- Sporting Icon Award: **Rafael Nadal**- Spain- Tennis
- Lifetime Achievement Award: **Kelly Slater**- USA, Surfing

World Earth Day 2025



- World Earth Day is celebrated every year on **22nd April** with the mission of broadening, educating, and activating environmental movements worldwide.
- Theme for 2025: "***Our Power, Our Planet***"
- Theme calls on everyone to unite for renewable energy and to work toward tripling clean energy capacity by 2030.
- The first Earth Day was celebrated on **April 22, 1970**, initiated by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson as a national teach-in on environmental issues
- Earth Day went global in 1990, mobilizing over 200 million people across 141 countries

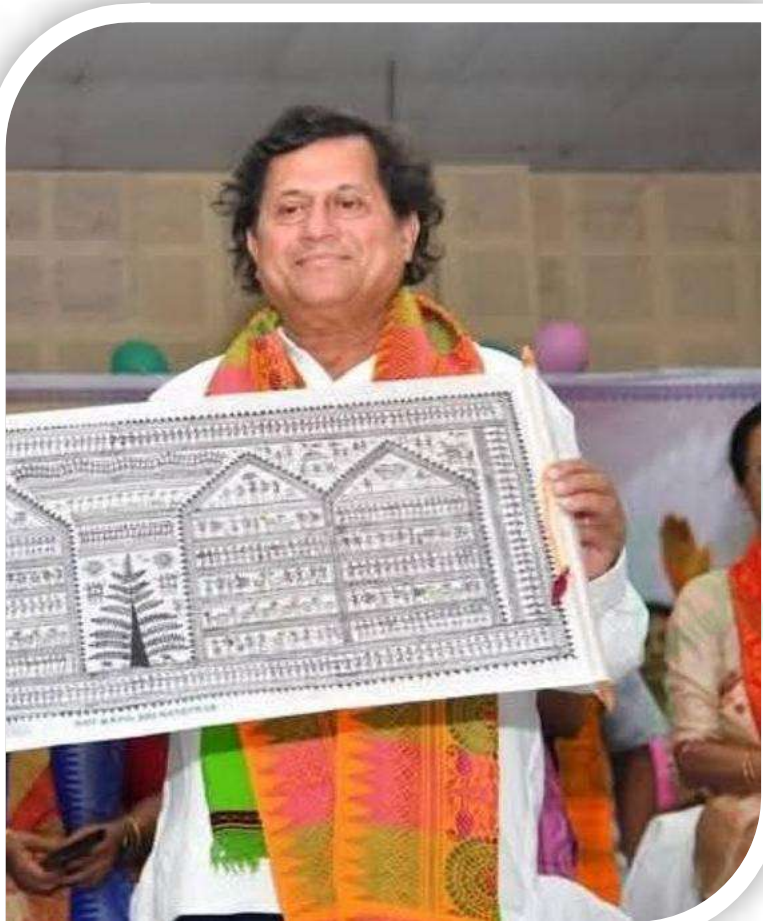
Pahalgam Terror Attack and Suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty



- On **April 22**, terror struck Pahalgam.
- The Cabinet Committee on Security, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a **5-point action plan against** Pakistan following the deadly terrorist attack in Baisaran valley (Pahalgam), Jammu and Kashmir, which claimed the lives of 26 civilians.
- India has suspended the **1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)** until Pakistan ceases its support for cross-border terrorism.
 - It reflects a shift in India's strategic calculus, using hydrological leverage as a pressure tool.

- India has **shut down the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Attari**, Punjab suspending all movement of people and goods.
 - Only individuals who have crossed over with valid documents will be permitted to return by 1st May 2025
- India has **revoked the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES)** for Pakistani nationals.
- Pakistan's Defence, Naval, and Air advisors in New Delhi have been declared **persona non grata and must exit India**.
 - India will also withdraw its own advisors from Islamabad.
- India will **reduce the staff strength at its High Commission in Islamabad** to 30, down from 55, by 1st May 2025.

Achyuta Samanta Conferred Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma Award 2025



- **Achyuta Samanta**, the visionary founder of KIIT and KISS, was recently honored with the prestigious Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma Award 2025 in Kokrajhar, Assam.
 - KIIT (Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology)
 - KISS (Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences)
- The award, instituted by the **Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma Trust**, celebrates individuals who have made substantial contributions to society, especially in the fields of education and social empowerment.
- This recognition comes on the occasion of the 166th birth anniversary of Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma, a revered social reformer and spiritual leader of the **Bodo community**.

Wisden 2025 Honours



- The Wisden Cricketers of the Year is an annual award **given to five cricketers** by the **Wisden Cricketers' Almanack**, a cricket reference book published annually in the United Kingdom.
- The award recognizes excellence in the previous English cricket season and is one of the oldest and most prestigious individual awards in cricket.
- The Wisden Cricketers of the Year award was **first introduced in 1889**, with the inaugural recipients being “**Six Great Bowlers of the Year.**”
- The award has been given every year since then, except for a brief interruption during World War II.

- **Jasprit Bumrah and Smriti Mandhana** have been named the World's Leading Men's and Women's cricketers, respectively
- **Jasprit Bumrah** had an excellent 2024, where his performance has already won him the 2024 Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year Award and the ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year Award.
 - He is the first bowler in cricket's history to take 200 test wickets with an average of less than 20 runs each.
- **Smriti Mandha** was recognised for her excellent performance in 2024
 - Her performance in the ODI has already fetched Smriti Mandhana the ICC Women's ODI (One Day International) Cricketer of the Year Award.
- New Zealand's **Mitchell Santner** was named the Wisden Trophy for the Year's Outstanding Performance.

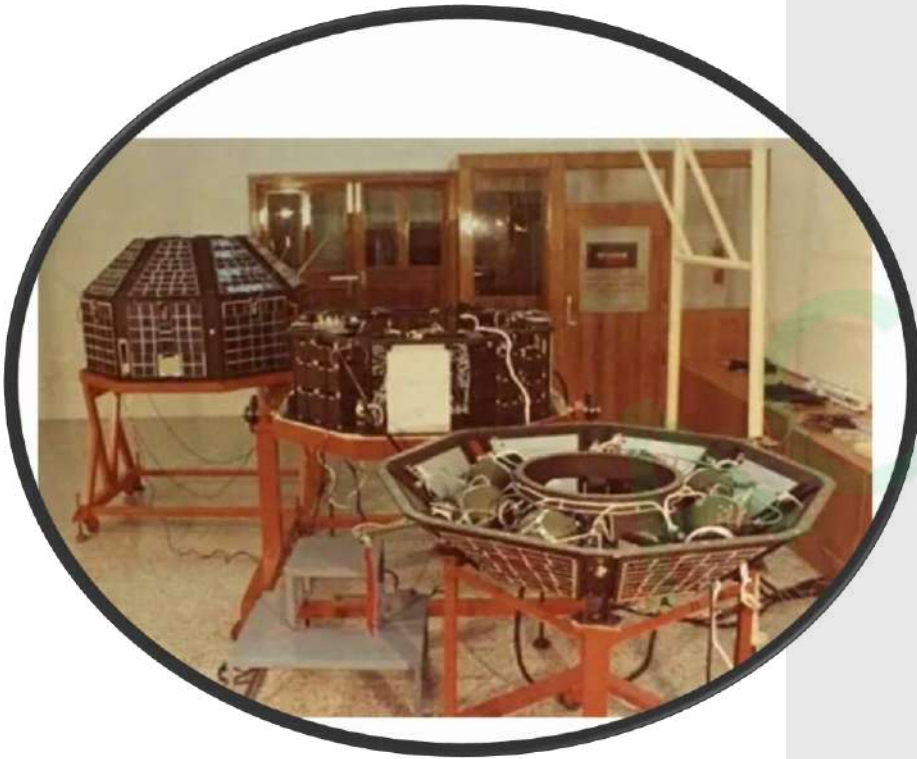
- Every year, Wisden selects **five cricketers** for their performance in the English domestic season. It is given only once to a cricketer.
 - This year, the selected players were **Gus Atkinson, Jamie Smith, Dan Worrall, Liam Dawson, and Sophie Ecclestone.**
- Indian who has been named Wisden Leading Cricketer in the World
- Men
 - **Virender Sehwag - 2008 and 2009**
 - **Sachin Tendulkar -2010**
 - **Virat Kohli- 2016, 2017 and 2018**
 - **Jasprit Bumrah-2024**
- Women
 - **Mithali Raj -2017**
 - **Smriti Mandhan- 2018, 2024**

Oscar Piastri Wins 2025 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix



- **Oscar Piastri** claimed a commanding win at the **Saudi Arabian Grand Prix** in Jeddah, securing his third victory of the season.
- This marked his **third win of the season**
- Oscar Jack Piastri is an Australian racing driver who competes in Formula One for McLaren.
- Piastri has won seven Formula One Grands Prix across three seasons.

50 Years of Aryabhata Satellite



- India is commemorating the 50th anniversary of **Aryabhata**, the nation's first indigenously built satellite.
- On **April 19, 1975**, India launched its first satellite, Aryabhata, marking a significant milestone in India's space program and the country's entry into the spacefaring club.
- Named after the ancient Indian **mathematician and astronomer, Aryabhata**
- The satellite was designed and built by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.
- It was launched from Kapustin Yar, a Soviet launch site, with the help of the Soviet Union

- Aryabhata was designed as a 26-sided polyhedron, measuring 1.4 metres in diameter and weighing 360 kilograms.
- Except for the top and bottom, all the remaining 24 faces of the satellite were covered with solar panels.
- With its successful launch, India was recognized as the 11th country in the world to send a satellite into orbit.
- Aryabhata's construction involved a small team of about 25 ISRO engineers working with limited resources under the leadership of visionaries like **Dr. Vikram Sarabhai and Prof. U.R. Rao.**

Klaus Schwab Resigns as Chairman of World Economic Forum



- World Economic Forum (WEF) Chairman **Klaus Schwab** decided to step down on April 21, after 55 years of service in the Geneva-based institution
- Klaus Schwab, the German economist and engineer who founded the **World Economic Forum (WEF) in 1971**
- Vice Chairman **Peter Brabeck-Letmathe** assumes interim leadership
- The World Economic Forum is investigating allegations against its founder and former Chairman, Klaus Schwab, following a whistleblower letter accusing him and his wife of financial and ethical misconduct.

**ALWAYS
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CURRENT AFFAIRS

2025

MAY 3

India finish ISSF World Cup Peru leg in 3rd place with 7 medals



- India finished their campaign of the Peru leg of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup in third place in the overall
- The ISSF World Cup/Rifle/Shotgun was held at the Peruvian capital city of Lima from 13-22 April 2025.
- India standings with a total of seven medals: **two gold, four silver and one bronze.**
- **Simranpreet Kaur Brar** won the silver medal in the women's 25m pistol event to end the country's campaign on a high.
 - This was her first medal at the mega event as well
- **China** finished on top of the standings with four golds, three silvers and six bronze medals.

- Gold medal winner
 - **Suruchi Singh** in the women's 10m air pistol event. She had also won the gold at the Buenos Aires event.
 - **Saurabh Chaudhary & Suruchi Singh** in the 10m air pistol mixed team event.
- The USA finished second with 7 medals.
- India also finished the World Cup with 7 medals, but the USA, with four gold medals, was ranked second as India had won only two gold medals.
- This was the second shooting World Cup this season.
- India had won eight medals – four gold, two silver, and two bronze – at Buenos Aires earlier this month and finished second.
- The World Cup Final will be held in Doha, Qatar, from 4-9 December 2025.

National Panchayati Raj Day 2025 and PM Modi's Bihar Visit



- The nation will commemorate National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) on **24th April 2025**
- The day marking thirty-two years of the **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992**, which gave constitutional status to Panchayats as institutions of rural local self-government.
- The main function will be organized in the august presence of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, at Lohna Uttar Gram Panchayat, Jhanjharpur Block in **Madhubani District of Bihar**.
- First Celebrated: **2010**, as declared by PM Dr. Manmohan Singh.

- The Prime Minister will address Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Gram Sabhas across the country and also confer Special Category National Panchayat Awards 2025 on this occasion.
- This year, National Panchayati Raj Day is being observed as a major national programme through a “**Whole-of-Government**” approach, involving participation of six Union Ministries:
 - The Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Railways, and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Similipal Officially Accorded As National Park's Status



- The **Similipal Tiger Reserve in Odisha**, India, has been officially declared a national park.
- This designation marks the **107th national park in India** and the second in Odisha, after Bhitarkanika
- Similipal is **Odisha's largest national park**, reinforcing the state's commitment to ecological preservation.
- This area was originally proposed for national park status in **1980** but has now been granted that status, reflecting decades of effort.
- Similipal was initially notified as a wildlife sanctuary in 1973, later being declared a critical tiger habitat in 2007.

Campbell Wilson to Step Down as Air India Express Chairman



- **Campbell Wilson**, the current CEO of Air India and Chairman of Air India Express since June 2022, has announced his decision to step down from the chairmanship of Air India Express.
- **Nipun Aggarwal**, Air India's Chief Commercial Officer and a board member of Air India Express, will assume the role of Chairman of the budget airline.
- Air India & Air India Express acquired by TATA group in January 2022

Exercise 'Aakraman' Indian Air Force Drills with Rafales and Su-30s



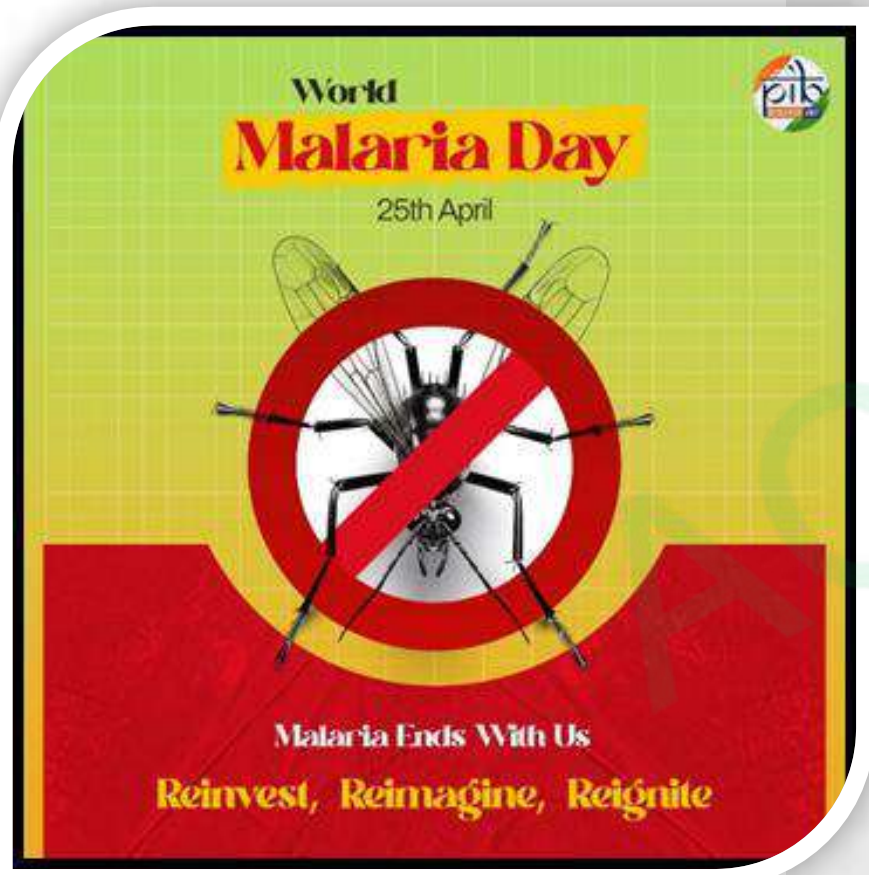
- Indian Air Force conducted Exercise '**Aakraman**,' a series of military drills simulating attacks on both mountain and ground targets.
- The exercise showcased India's advanced fighter jets, including the **Rafale and Su-30MKI**, and tested their capabilities in ground attack and electronic warfare.
- The Indian Air Force operates **two squadrons of the Rafale aircraft** which are based out of **Ambala and Hashimara in West Bengal**.

Yeshasvini Health Scheme

- Launched in 2003, the **Yeshasvini scheme** is a **health insurance program** started by the **Karnataka government**.
- It gives medical care to people in Karnataka who have a **low or middle income**.
- In 2018, this **cooperative medical insurance scheme** merged with other health schemes under Arogya Karnataka to streamline operations.
- However, due to demands from stakeholders, it was **relaunched in 2022-2023**.
- Recently an **expert committee appointed** by the state government has submitted a detailed report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, recommending a substantial revision in the rates of medical procedures covered under the scheme.
- If implemented, this overhaul could significantly impact both beneficiaries and healthcare providers across the state.



World Malaria Day 2025



- World Malaria Day is observed globally on **25th April** each year, following its institution by the World Health Organisation's (WHO) member states during the **2007 World Health Assembly**.
- The theme for 2025, "***Malaria Ends With Us: Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite,***"
- With an 80.5% reduction in malaria cases and 78.3% reduction in deaths between **2015 and 2023**, and **over 122 districts** reporting zero cases last year, the country is advancing with renewed momentum towards achieving **zero indigenous cases by 2027** and setting a global benchmark in public health elimination efforts.
- India reaffirms its steadfast commitment to **eliminating malaria by 2030**.

- Malaria is a life-threatening disease caused by parasites and spread to humans through the bites of infected **female Anopheles mosquitoes**.
- According to the World Malaria Report, the estimated number of malaria deaths stood at **5 lakhs 97 thousand in 2023**, compared to 6 lakhs in 2022.
- India remains steadfast in its **commitment to eliminate malaria by 2030**, with the intermediate target of **zero indigenous cases by 2027**.
- The National Framework for Malaria Elimination in India (2016–2030) outlines the vision, goals, and targets for phased malaria elimination.
- The recently launched **National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination (2023–2027)** builds upon earlier frameworks and aligns with the WHO Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016–2030.
- **122 districts reported zero malaria cases in 2023**, showing strong localized impact.
- The nationwide “**Test, Treat, Track**” strategy ensures early detection and timely treatment.

Former ISRO Chairman K. Kasturirangan Passes Away



- Former ISRO Chairman and a key architect of India's National Education Policy, **Dr. K. Kasturirangan**, passed away
- As Chairman of ISRO, Dr. Kasturirangan played a pivotal role in the development of the **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)**, which went on to become India's most reliable satellite launcher.
- He led the Indian Space Programme for over nine years before stepping down on August 27, 2003 (**1994-2003**)
- Until his death, he was Chancellor of **Central University of Rajasthan and NIIT University**

- He was a member of the Rajya Sabha (2003–09) and a former member of the Planning Commission of India which was renamed as NITI Aayog in 2015.
- He was also the director of the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, from April 2004 to 2009.
- Kasturirangan led a high-level Working Group on the Western Ghats in 2012 to revisit the recommendations of the Gadgil Committee on zoning.
- Later in September 2021, he was appointed as the head of a 12-member steering committee which would be responsible for developing a new National Curriculum Framework.
- 2003- **Aryabhata Award**
- 2000- **Padma Vibhushan**
- 1992- **Padma Bhushan**
- 1982- **Padma Shri**

India to Allow 49% Foreign Stake Investment in Nuclear Power



- India is preparing for a major shift in its energy strategy by considering allowing up to **49% foreign investment in its nuclear power sector**.
- This landmark move aims to **strengthen the country's clean energy capacity**, reduce dependency on coal, and contribute significantly to carbon emission reduction goals
- India's current nuclear power generation is around 8 GW, accounting for just **2%** of the total installed electricity capacity.
- Traditionally, nuclear power plants in India have been owned and operated only by state-owned **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL)** and its fully-owned subsidiary **Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam (BHAVINI)**.

- The **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)** and **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** will continue to supervise all activities.
- Any relaxation in investment norms will be coupled with strict compliance to India's safety protocols, aligned with the International **Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** **guidelines**.
- To allow private sector participation government has proposed amendments to key legislations;
 - **Atomic Energy Act, 1962**, a framework for nuclear energy development and regulation.
 - **Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010**, ensuring compensation mechanisms for nuclear incidents.

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra to Resume



- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** has announced that the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra**, which has not taken place since 2020, will resume this year
- It is one of the most religiously significant pilgrimages for **Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and the Bon religion**
- The pilgrimage, suspended since 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and strained India-China relations, is now being revived amidst a larger diplomatic rapprochement between the two nations
- Discussions regarding the resumption began at the Special Representatives' meeting in Beijing in December 2024, where India's NSA **Ajit Doval** met with China's Foreign Minister **Wang Yi**.
- A follow-up visit by India's Foreign Secretary to Beijing in January 2025 paved the way for this year's planned yatra.

Payal Kapadia Receives Prestigious French Honour



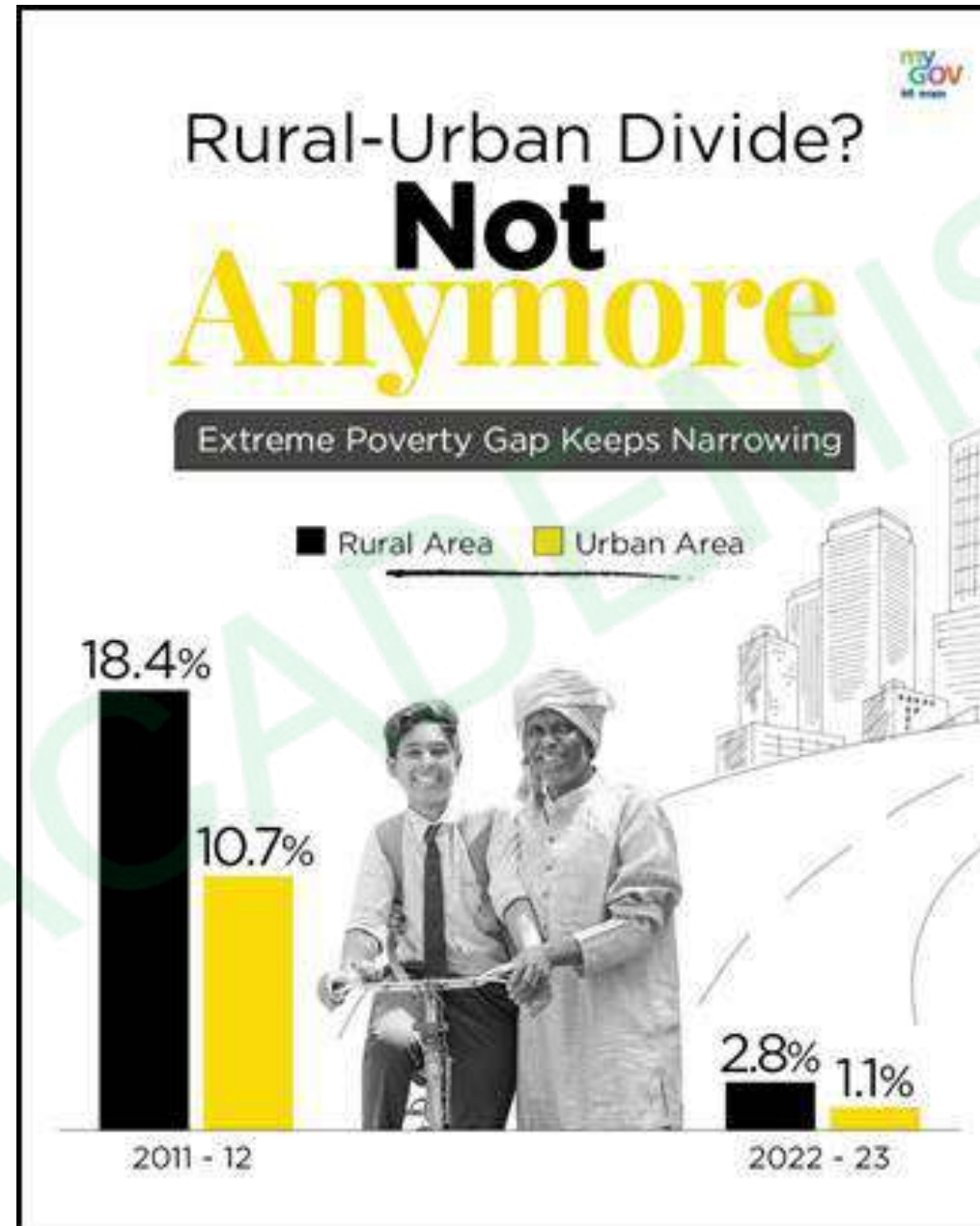
- Payal Kapadia, who made history last year as the first Indian director in three decades to win a major award in **Cannes' main competition**, was honored with **France's prestigious "Officier dans l'Ordre Arts et des Lettres" (Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters)** distinction
- This honour places her among the ranks of notable Indian artists, including Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, and Lata Mangeshkar.
- It was her 2024 film '**All We Imagine As Light**' that brought her to global attention, winning the Grand Prix at the 77th Cannes Film Festival.
- The Grand Prix marked a historic achievement as Kapadia became the first Indian director in 30 years to win this prestigious award in Cannes' main competition.

India's Battle Against Poverty: 171 Million Lifted from Extreme Poverty in a Decade



- India has lifted 171 million people out of extreme poverty.
- The World Bank acknowledges India's decisive fight against poverty in its Spring 2025 Poverty and Equity Brief.
- According to the report, the proportion of people living on less than 2.15 US dollars a day, which is the international benchmark for extreme poverty, fell sharply from 16.2 percent in 2011-12 to just 2.3 percent in 2022-23.
- In Rural areas, extreme poverty fell from 18.4 percent in 2011-12 to 2.8 percent in 2022-23.
- In Urban centres, extreme poverty reduced from 10.7 percent to 1.1 percent over the same period.

- The gap between rural and urban poverty shrunk from 7.7 percentage points to 1.7 percentage points, with an annual decline rate of 16 percent between 2011-12 and 2022-23.
- The five most populous states i.e. **Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh**, represented 65 percent of India's extreme poor in 2011-12.
 - By 2022-23, these states contributed to two-thirds of the overall decline in extreme poverty.







Jobs Growing **Faster** Than People

Since 2021-22
Employment growth is
greater than expansion
of India's working-age
population

Q1 FY24/25
Urban unemployment
declined to 6.6%,
Lowest Since 2017-18



Mark Carney Secures Fourth Term for Canada's Liberal Party



- In a historic electoral outcome, Prime Minister **Mark Carney** has declared victory in Canada's federal election, securing a fourth term for his Liberal Party.
- The Liberals, who have been in power for more than nine years, were 20 percentage points behind in surveys in January before the **Justin Trudeau** announced he was quitting as prime minister and Trump started threatening tariffs and annexation.

Book Launch of “Ramanujan: Journey of a Great Mathematician”



- National Archives of India launched a book titled '*Ramanujan: Journey of a Great Mathematician*' in New Delhi
- The book is a historical account that delves into the life and contributions of Indian Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- It also documents Ramanujan's journey, from his beginnings in Erode, Tamil Nadu, to his groundbreaking work in number theory, infinite series, and continued fractions.
- The book is authored by **Arun Singhal and Dr Devendra Kumar Sharma**.

Vaibhav Suryavanshi, Youngest to Smash IPL's Second-Fastest Century



- Fourteen-year-old **Vaibhav Suryavanshi** has made history in the IPL by becoming the **youngest player to score a century** and achieving the **second-fastest century in the league's history**.
- Playing for the **Rajasthan Royals** in the 2025 season, he reached the milestone of 100 runs in just 35 balls.
- The 35-ball hundred placed him second on the all-time list for fastest IPL centuries, behind only **Chris Gayle**.
- Vaibhav had already scripted history earlier in the season by becoming the youngest IPL debutant at just **14 years and 23 days**

India Clinches Record 83 Gold Medals at the 2nd Asian Yogasana Sport Championship



- India delivered a dominant performance at the **Asian Yogasana Sport Championship**, securing a record **83 gold medals** to top the medal tally at the event in Delhi
- The hosts also won three silver and one bronze medal to end with 87 medals, finishing well ahead of Japan, which claimed three gold, three silver and four bronze medals.
- The championship saw participation from over 21 countries, including Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Uzbekistan.
- President of the Asian Yogasana Federation: **Dr. Sanjay Malpani**

Liverpool Crowned 2024–25 Premier League Champions



- **Liverpool Football Club** secured the 2024–25 Premier League title after a dominant 5-1 win over **Tottenham Hotspur**
- The 2024–25 Premier League was the 33rd season of the Premier League and the 126th season of top-flight English football overall.
- Manchester City entered the season as four-time defending champions, but were dethroned by Liverpool, who emerged as Premier League champions for the second time
- Top goal scorer: **Mohamed Salah(29 goals)**
- Best goalkeeper: **David Raya and Matz Sels(13 clean sheets each)**

Madhya Pradesh Introduced India's First AI-Powered Real-Time Forest Alert System



- **Madhya Pradesh** has taken a significant leap towards forest conservation with the launch of India's first AI-based real-time forest alert system.
- This system uses satellite data, AI, and mobile-based field reporting to detect land encroachment, deforestation, and other changes in forest areas.
- The system is currently being tested in five sensitive forest divisions:
Shivpuri, Guna, Vidisha, Burhanpur, and Khandwa.

Election Commission Unveiled Three New Voter-Centric Reforms



- The Election Commission of India (ECI), the constitutional body overseeing elections in the country, has launched three new initiatives aimed at strengthening the electoral process
- These measures are in line with the initiatives as envisaged by the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India **Shri Gyanesh Kumar** during the Conference of Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs), in the presence of Election Commissioners Dr. **Sukhbir Singh Sandhu** and **Dr. Vivek Joshi** in March this year.

- The Commission will now obtain **death registration data electronically from the Registrar General of India** in line with Rule 9 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 and Section 3(5)(b) of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 (as amended in 2023).
 - This will ensure that the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) receive timely information about registered deaths.
- To make **Voter Information Slips (VIS) more voter friendly**, the Commission has also decided to modify its design.
 - The serial number and part number of the voter will now be displayed more prominently, with increased font size, making it easier for voters to identify their polling station and for polling officials to locate their names in the electoral roll efficiently.

- The Commission has also directed that all BLOs(Booth Level Officer), who are appointed by the EROs(Electoral Registration Officer) under Section 13B (2) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, **be issued standard photo identity cards** to ensure that citizens can recognise and interact confidently with BLOs during voter verification and registration drives.
 - As the first interface between the voters and the ECI in performing election related duties, it is important that BLOs are easily identifiable to the public while conducting house-to-house visits.

**ALWAYS
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CURRENT AFFAIRS

2025

MAY 4

India Remains World's 4th Largest Economy, Surpasses Japan



- India, with a GDP of **\$4.39 trillion**, stands as the **fourth-largest economy globally**, maintaining its momentum as the fastest-growing major economy.
- The IMF's World Economic Outlook for April 2025 estimates India's growth rate at 6.2% for 2025, down slightly from previous forecasts but still robust.
- The **United States** is the largest economy at \$30.34 trillion.
- **China** follows at \$19.53 trillion, with a projected growth of 4.6%.
- **Germany**, meanwhile, is projected to see no GDP growth in 2025

Cricket retained & Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) is set to make its debut for Asian Games 2026



- The Asian Games 2026 are scheduled to be held in the **Aichi and Nagoya of Japan** from **September 19 to October 4**.
- Cricket has been retained for Asian Games 2026 while **Mixed Martial Arts (MMA)** is set to make its debut at the continental meet, the Olympic Council of Asia confirmed
- This will be the fourth time that cricket will be making an appearance in the Asian Games programme(**2010, 2014, 2023**)
- Cricket is also set to return to the Olympic fold at LA 2028 after more than a century.

PM Modi Dedicates ₹8,800 Crore Vizhinjam International Seaport to the Nation



- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** dedicated **Vizhinjam International Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport** worth Rs **8,800 crore** to the nation in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala** on **May 2, 2025**
- The inauguration coincided with the birth anniversary of **Adi Shankaracharya**
- Designed as a deepwater, world-class transshipment hub, the port aims to enhance India's trade capacity.
- **First deepwater, multipurpose, transshipment port in India.**

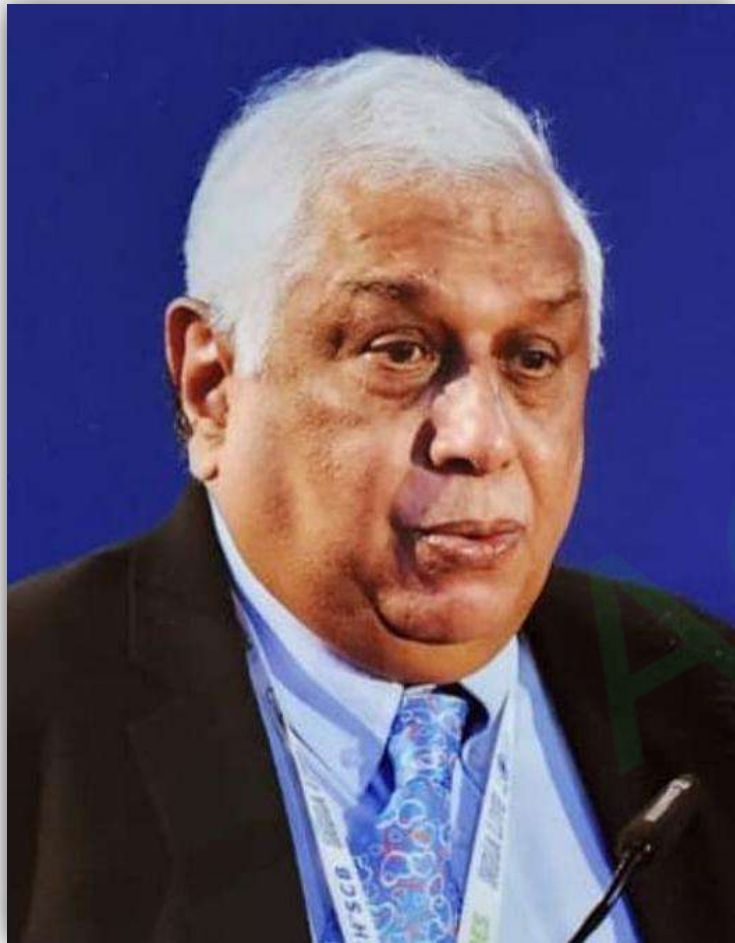
- Reduce India's dependence on foreign ports for transshipment (currently 75% done abroad).
- Enhance India's share in global maritime trade.
- Can host the world's largest cargo ships (over 20,000 TEU capacity).
- Located just 10 nautical miles from the international shipping route.
- Operates under **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model** with Adani Ports.
- **Sagarmala Project:** Modernizes port infrastructure and connectivity.
- **PM-Gati Shakti:** Ensures integrated planning across road, rail, air, and sea.

Lakkundi Group of Monuments Proposed for UNESCO Tentative List



- The **Lakkundi Group of Monuments in Karnataka**, India, are being finalized for inclusion on UNESCO's tentative list of World Heritage Sites.
- The Karnataka government, in collaboration with **INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage)**, has prepared a final stage proposal to include ancient temples and monuments located in the Lakkundi area of Gadag district
- These monuments, primarily temples and stepwells, were built during the **Kalyana Chalukya period (10th-12th century CE)** and showcase the architectural and cultural richness of the region.
- The region is famous for **temple architecture, water structures and technological innovation.**

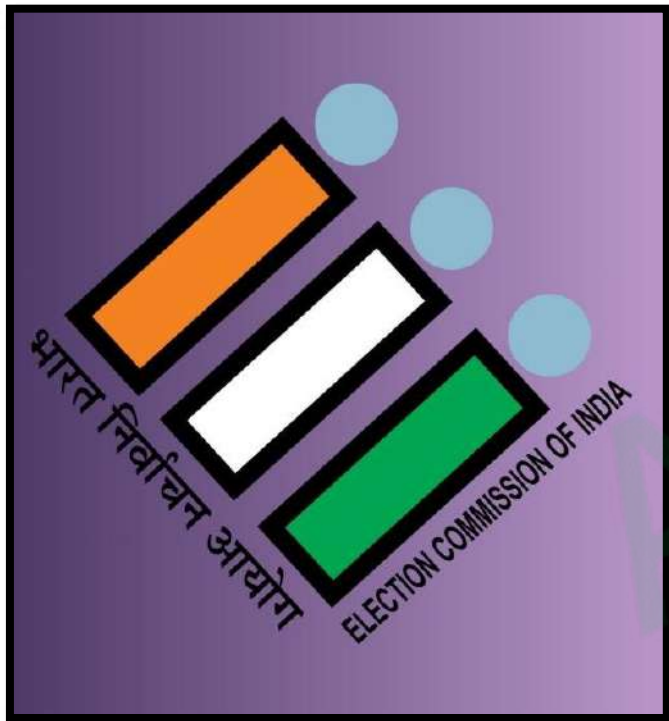
Dr. Mathew Kalarickal, India's Pioneer of Angioplasty, Passes Away



- **Dr. Mathew Samuel Kalarickal**, who introduced angioplasty to India and mentored scores of cardiologists, passed away
- Dr Mathew was the founding convenor of the National Angioplasty Registry of India
- **Padmashri** by the President of India in **2000**
- **Dr. B. C. Roy Award** in Interventional Cardiology in 1996
- "**Rashtriya Samman**" (top tax payers award) in 2000

Election Commission to Launch Unified ECINET App Integrating 40+

Existing Applications



- In a major initiative, the Election Commission of India is developing a new **user-friendly digital interface for the electors** and its **other stakeholders** such as the **election officials, political parties and the civil society**.
- The new one-stop platform, **ECINET**, will integrate and reorient over 40 of ECI's existing mobile and web applications.
- ECINET will subsume existing Apps like the **Voter Helpline App, Voter Turnout App, cVIGIL, Suvidha 2.0, ESMS, Saksham and KYC App** which together have clocked over 5.5 crore download
- The data provided through ECINET will be strictly aligned within the legal framework established by the **Representation of People Act 1950, 1951, Registration of Electoral Rules, 1960 Conduct of Election Rules, 1961** and instructions issued by ECI from time to time.

Angola Joins ISA; Signs Key MoUs with India during Presidential Visit



- President of Angola, **João Lourenço**, concluded a state visit to India in May 2025.
- The visit resulted in the signing of crucial Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in **Ayurveda, agriculture, and culture**, along with India's approval of a **USD 200 million Line of Credit (LOC)** for **defence procurement** by Angola.
- **Cultural Cooperation (2025–2029)**: A programme was signed to facilitate cultural exchange, promote mutual understanding, and support exhibitions, festivals, and scholarly interactions.
- Angola also joined the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** as its **123rd member**.

Operation Hawk 2025



- **Operation Hawk** is a special anti-cybercrime initiative launched by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in 2025.
- It aims to identify and prosecute individuals involved in online child sexual exploitation with international digital footprints.
- Objective: Dismantle organized cyber networks targeting minors online.
- **Operation CARBON (2021)**: Targeted the dark web users sharing CSAM across global platforms.
- **Operation MEGH CHAKRA (2022)**: Conducted pan-India raids, based on Interpol inputs; resulted in large-scale digital seizures and arrests.

India's First Gold-Melting ATM Unveiled by Goldsikka



- Hyderabad-based fintech company **Goldsikka** has launched an innovative AI-integrated **Gold-Melting ATM**
- This innovative machine enables users to **buy, sell, exchange, lease, digitise, and monetise gold**, all through an automated process.
- Integrated with Augmented Reality (AR), the ATM also allows users to virtually try on jewellery before purchasing, offering a futuristic and user-friendly gold transaction experience.
- Users deposit gold into the ATM, which automatically **melts it and tests its purity**.
- Goldsikka, which previously launched **India's first real-time gold ATM in 2022**

Anthony Albanese Re-elected As Australian PM



- Australian Prime Minister **Anthony Albanese** has been re-elected as the country's leader, becoming the first in decades to secure a second term.
- His **Labor Party** dramatically increased its parliamentary majority.
- Albanese has been the Australian PM since 2022.
- In 2024, PM Narendra Modi met Anthony Albanese MP during the second India-Australia Annual Summit on the sidelines of the Group of 20 (G20) Summit in Rio de Janeiro on 19 November 2024.

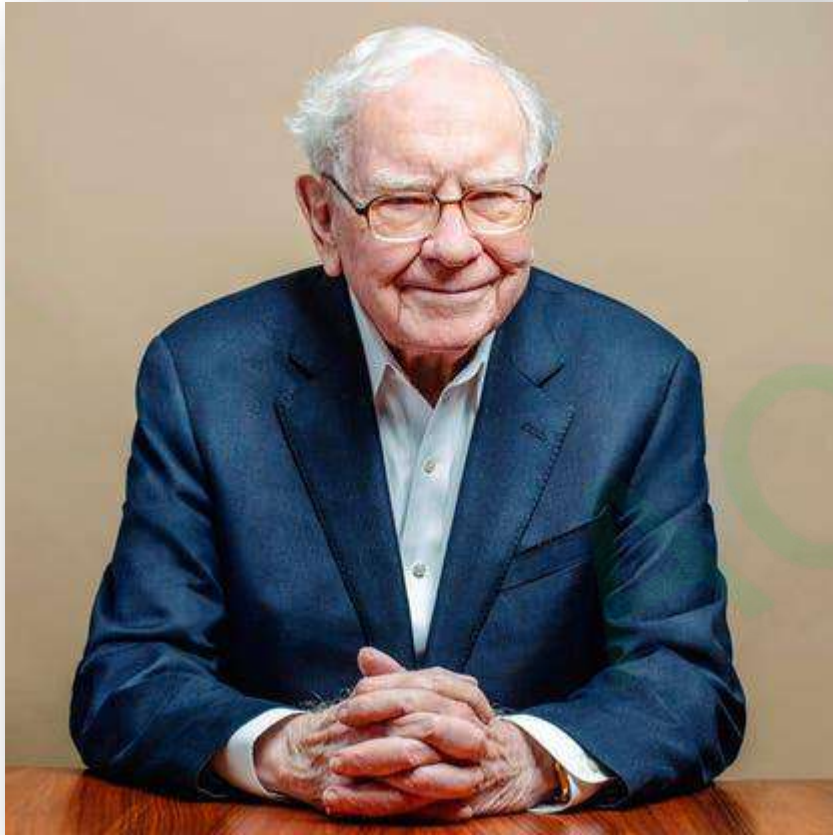
India Recalls IMF Executive Director K.V. Subramanian Ahead of Tenure

End



- The Indian government has prematurely ended the tenure of **Krishnamurthy Subramanian** as the country's Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), according to an order from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) dated April 30, 2025.
- Subramanian's term, which began on **November 1, 2022**, was originally slated to run for three years.
- The government has not offered an explanation for Subramanian's early exit.
- India has temporarily appointed **Parameswaran Iyer** as its nominee director on the IMF board,

Warren Buffett Step down As CEO of Berkshire



- **Warren Edward Buffett** is an American investor and philanthropist who currently serves as the chairman and CEO of the conglomerate holding company **Berkshire Hathaway**.
- As a result of his investment success, Buffett is one of the best-known investors in the world.
- Buffett has led Berkshire Hathaway since 1965, transforming it from a textile company into a \$1.2 trillion conglomerate.

India Unveils First Genome-Edited Rice Varieties



- Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched India's first two genome-edited rice varieties by ICAR in New Delhi.
- India has released its first genome-edited rice varieties namely '**DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala)**' and '**Pusa DST Rice 1**' aimed at enhancing yields, climate resilience, and resource efficiency without introducing foreign DNA.
- They have been developed by ICAR using advanced CRISPR-Cas9 genome-editing technology.
- No foreign DNA is introduced, making them comparable to traditionally bred crops.

- **DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala)** is based on the popular Samba Mahsuri variety.
 - It matures 15 to 20 days earlier and yields 25 percent more production
- **Pusa DST Rice 1** is based on Maruteru 1010 variety and enhances drought and salt tolerance.
- Cultivation of these varieties in about 5 million hectares of the recommended area will produce 4.5 million tonnes of additional paddy

Padma Shri Rabiya, Kerala's literacy icon, passes away



- **K.V. Rabia**, a remarkable social worker and literacy activist from Kerala, who turned her physical hardships into a force for community upliftment, passed away at 59
- Became deeply involved with the Kerala State Literacy Mission.
- Her commitment to empowering marginalized communities through literacy earned her several accolades, including the prestigious **Padma Shri in 2022**.
- **National Youth Award (1993)**.

India's First Inter-State Cheetah Corridor Set to Span Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan



- Rajasthan has agreed to join **India's first inter-state cheetah conservation corridor** with Madhya Pradesh.
- A wildlife corridor project designed to connect protected habitats in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan for the reintroduced cheetahs to roam safely and naturally across a vast ecosystem.
- The project will connect **Palpur Kuno National Park** and **Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary** in Madhya Pradesh with the **Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve** in Rajasthan to provide cheetahs free passage.
- The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) are the key implementing agencies.

Telangana Hosts Miss World 2025



- The 72nd Miss World pageant, held from May 10 to 31, 2025, is drawing global attention to **Telangana** as it plays host to participants from 120 nations.
- The Miss World pageant is being hosted in Telangana, India, for the first time
- This was the third time the pageant was held in India, following **Miss World 1996** and **Miss World 2023**.
- Miss World 2025: **Suchata Opal Chuangsri** of Thailand
- This is the first time Thailand has won in the history of the pageant

Yemen Appoints Finance Minister Salem Bin Braik as New Prime Minister



- Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) appointed **Salem Saleh Bin Braik**, the country's long-serving Finance Minister, as the new Prime Minister on May 5, 2025.
- This decision follows the sudden resignation of **Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak**, who cited constitutional limitations and a lack of authority to implement key reforms as reasons for stepping down.
- Salem Saleh Bin Braik has been Yemen's Finance Minister since 2019.

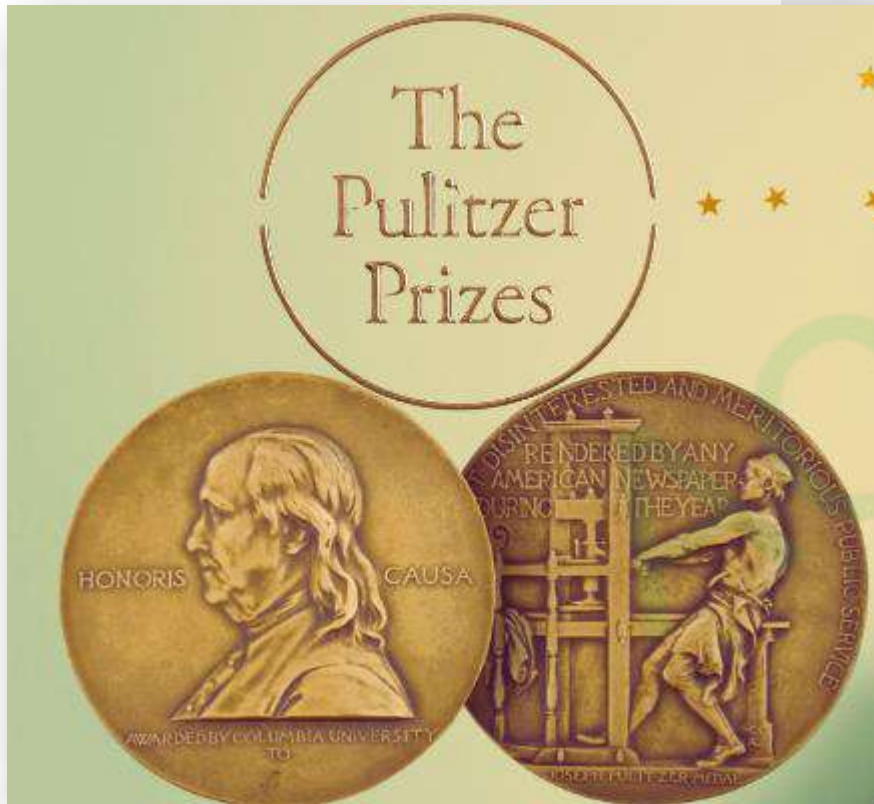
India Breaks Records in Mineral(Mining) Production in FY 2024-25



- India's mining sector recorded robust growth in the financial year 2024–25, building on the momentum of the previous year, with several key minerals achieving all-time high production levels, according to provisional data released by the **Ministry of Mines**
- **Iron ore**, which constitutes nearly **70 per cent** of the total mineral production under **the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR)** by value, reached an all-time high of **289 million metric tonnes (MMT)** in FY 2024-25.
 - This marks a 4.3 per cent increase over the previous record of 277 MMT achieved in FY 2023-24.

- **Manganese** ore production also reached new highs, rising by 11.8 per cent from 3.4 MMT in FY 2023-24 to 3.8 MMT in the current fiscal.
- **Bauxite production** saw a 2.9 per cent uptick, growing from 24 MMT to 24.7 MMT.
- Similarly, **lead concentrate** output increased from 381 thousand tonnes (THT) to 393 THT, reflecting a 3.1 per cent rise.
- In the non-ferrous metals segment, **primary aluminium production** climbed from 41.6 lakh tonnes (LT) in FY 2023-24 to 42 LT in FY 2024-25, setting a new production record.
- **Refined copper** output posted a strong growth of 12.6 per cent, rising from 5.09 LT to 5.73 LT.
- India is currently the **second-largest producer of aluminium**, ranks among the top ten producers of refined copper, and is the **fourth-largest iron ore producer globally**.

Pulitzer Prize 2025



- The Pulitzer Prizes 2025, honoring outstanding contributions to journalism and the arts, were announced by the Pulitzer Prize Board.
- The Pulitzer Prizes for the year 2025 were given in a total of **23 categories**, including **15 categories of journalism** and **8 categories of books, drama, music etc.**
- **Fiction: Percival Everett** won the award for his novel '*James*', which tells the story of 'Huckleberry Finn' from the point of view of a slave.
- **Drama: Branden Jacobs-Jenkins** was honored for "Purpose," which delves into the inner complexities of a wealthy black family.

- Journalism: **The New York Times** won four Pulitzers, for their swift reporting on the Trump assassination attempt.
- Public Service: **Kavita Suarna, Lizzie Presser, Cassandra Jaramillo and Stacy Kranitz** (reporting on deaths of pregnant women due to obscure abortion law exceptions).
- Pulitzer Prize was established in 1917 and is administered by Columbia University and Pulitzer Prize Board.
 - It is awarded in the name of Joseph Pulitzer, a newspaper publisher who gave money in his will to Columbia University to launch a journalism school and establish the Prize.
 - The award is conferred annually in the United States for accomplishments in journalism, literature(story, poetry and drama) and music.

China Clinches 14th Sudirman Cup Title



- The **People's Republic of China** clinched a fourth consecutive BWF Sudirman Cup title, and their **14th badminton mixed team world crown** in total
- In a repeat of the last final in 2023, the hosts defeated **Republic of Korea**
- The Sudirman Cup is the World Mixed Team Badminton Championship, organized by the **Badminton World Federation (BWF)**.
- China has now won 14 out of the 18 editions
- The Sudirman Cup was first held in **1989**.
- China has been finalists **16 times in a row**, underlining their global dominance.
- **South Korea**, the next best team, holds only 4 titles in comparison.

Operation Sindoor: India Strikes Back in Pakistan and PoK



OPERATION SINDOOR

- India launched **Operation Sindoor** in retaliation for the April 2025 Pahalgam terrorist attack, targeting 9 terrorist infrastructure sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).
- Wing Commander **Vyomika Singh** and Colonel **Sofiya Qureshi** led the Indian government's briefing about the operation.
- Operation Sindoor was a coordinated precision strike operation launched by the Indian Armed Forces **on 7th May 2025**
- It was executed through the coordinated efforts of the **Army, Navy, and Air Force**, conducted from Indian territory.

Friedrich Merz elected German chancellor



- **Friedrich Merz**, leader of the **Christian Democratic Union (CDU)**, has officially been sworn in as Germany's new chancellor, marking the culmination of a dramatic political struggle.
- His initial defeat was historic, marking the first time in post-war Germany that a chancellor candidate failed to win in the first round.
- Despite an initial failure to secure enough votes in the Bundestag, Merz successfully won a second vote, securing a narrow majority.
- He replaced **Olaf Scholz**

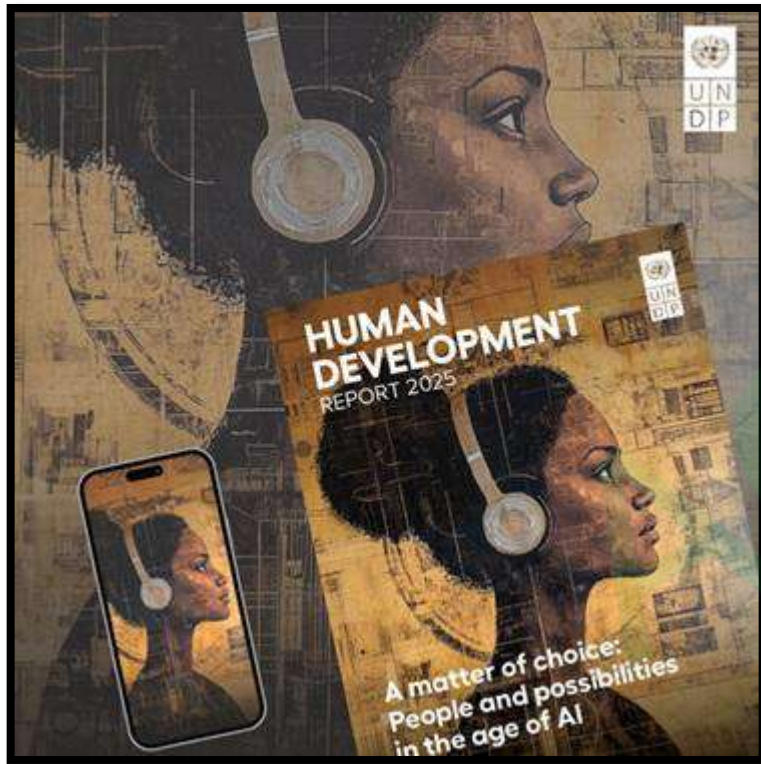
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CURRENT AFFAIRS

2025

MAY 5

India Advances to 130th Rank in 2025 Human Development Report



- India has advanced to the **130th rank** in the 2025 Human Development Report, improving from 133rd in 2022, according to the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**.
- Title of this report: ***"A Matter of Choice: People and Possibilities in the Age of AI"***.
- India's HDI value has increased from **0.676 in 2022 to 0.685 in 2023**.
- Despite this progress, India remains in the **medium human development category**
- **Iceland** ranks first with a Human Development Index of 0.972
- **South Sudan** ranks last with a Human Development Index of 0.388.

Biju Patnaik Memorial Unveiled in Delhi for Battle of Stalingrad

Contribution



- **Russia** paid homage to Biju Patnaik on May 7, 2025, by unveiling a **memorial plaque in New Delhi**, acknowledging his brave service during the Second World War.
- Biju Patnaik, born in **Cuttack** in 1916, was a brave freedom fighter, expert pilot, and prominent politician.
- He joined the Royal Indian Air Force in 1936 and flew dangerous missions during World War II.
- During the **Battle of Stalingrad (1942–43)**, he risked his life flying through German defences to supply arms to the Soviet Red Army

Cabinet Approves ₹11,828 Crore Expansion Plan for Five IITs



- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, approved expansion of academic and infrastructure capacity (Phase-`B' construction) of five new IITs which had been established in the States/UT of **Andhra Pradesh (IIT Tirupati), Kerala (IIT Palakkad), Chhattisgarh (IIT Bhilai), Jammu & Kashmir (IIT Jammu) and Karnataka (IIT Dharwad).**
- The total cost for the same is Rs.11,828.79 crore over a period of four years from 2025-26 to 2028-29.
- On completion of construction, these five IITs shall be able to cater 13,687 students as against current student strength of 7,111 i.e. an increase of 6,576 students

Kerala Launches 'Jyothi' Scheme to Educate Migrant Children



- Kerala has launched the "**Jyothi**" scheme to provide free primary education to the children of migrant workers in the state.
- The scheme aims to ensure that these children, who may face difficulties in accessing education due to financial constraints, receive the necessary support to attend school
- Migrant workers form an integral part of Kerala's workforce, with over 35 lakh contributing across key sectors
- 'Jyothi' will bring all migrant children aged three to six into anganwadis (government-run childcare centres) and integrate those aged six and above into public schools.

Rohit Sharma Announces Retirement from Test Cricket



- Team India captain **Rohit Sharma** has officially announced his retirement from Test cricket
- He is a **right-handed batsman** who plays for **Mumbai Indians** in Indian Premier League and for Mumbai in domestic cricket
- Rohit made his **Test debut in 2013** and went on to play 67 matches for India, scoring 4,301 runs.
- After the team's victory at the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup, he announced his retirement from T20Is
- He was also a member of the teams that won the 2007 T20 World Cup, the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy and the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy.

- He scored the highest-ever individual score in a One Day International match, with a 264 against Sri Lanka at the Eden Gardens, Kolkata on 13 November 2014.
- He is the only player to have scored three double-centuries in ODIs.
- In 2019, Sharma became the only batsman to scored five centuries in a single edition of the Cricket World Cup.
- First Indian to complete 300 sixes in the 50-overs format
- First Indian batter to hit 50 One Day International (ODI) sixes in a calendar year.
- 2015 Arjuna Award
- 2020 Khel Ratna Award

World Red Cross Day 2025



- World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is observed annually on **8th May**
- Theme 2025: "**Keeping Humanity Alive**"
- The day was established in 1948 to commemorate the birth of **Henry Dunant**, born on 8th May 1828, who was the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the first Nobel Peace Prize laureate, sharing the award with Frédéric Passy.
- **Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS)** was founded in 1920, provides disaster relief and healthcare, with the **President of India** as its President and the **Union Health Minister** as its Chairman.

Kozhikode Joins WHO's Global Age-Friendly Cities Network



- **Kozhikode** has been officially inducted into the World Health Organization's (WHO) **Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC)**.
- This distinction marks a significant step forward in the city's commitment to creating an inclusive, safe, and supportive environment for its ageing population
- Established by WHO in **2010** to connect cities and communities committed to making their environments more age-friendly.
- It includes hundreds of cities across more than 50 countries.

Starlink gets key nod from Indian govt for satellite internet service



- Elon Musk's **Starlink** has cleared a key regulatory hurdle in India, receiving a **Letter of Intent (LoI)** from the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** to provide satellite internet services in the country
- Objective: **To provide high-speed internet access via satellite to rural, remote, and underserved areas.**
- In preparation for deployment, Starlink has signed agreements with **Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel**, who will distribute Starlink kits through retail channels, manage installations, and provide customer support.
- With this move, Starlink joins players like **OneWeb, Eutelsat, and the Jio-SES joint venture** in India's growing satellite internet sector. Meanwhile, Amazon's Project Kuiper is still awaiting its LoI.

INS Arnala: India's First Indigenous Anti-Submarine Shallow Water Craft

Delivered



- The Indian Navy has received its **first Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)**, named '**Arnala**', on May 8, 2025.
- The vessel, designed and constructed under the public-private partnership of **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)** and **L&T Shipyard**, represents a key achievement in India's indigenisation efforts under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.
- Built At: **L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli**

Haryana Launches “Pandit Lakhmi Chand Kalakar Samajik Samman Yojana” to Support Veteran Artistes



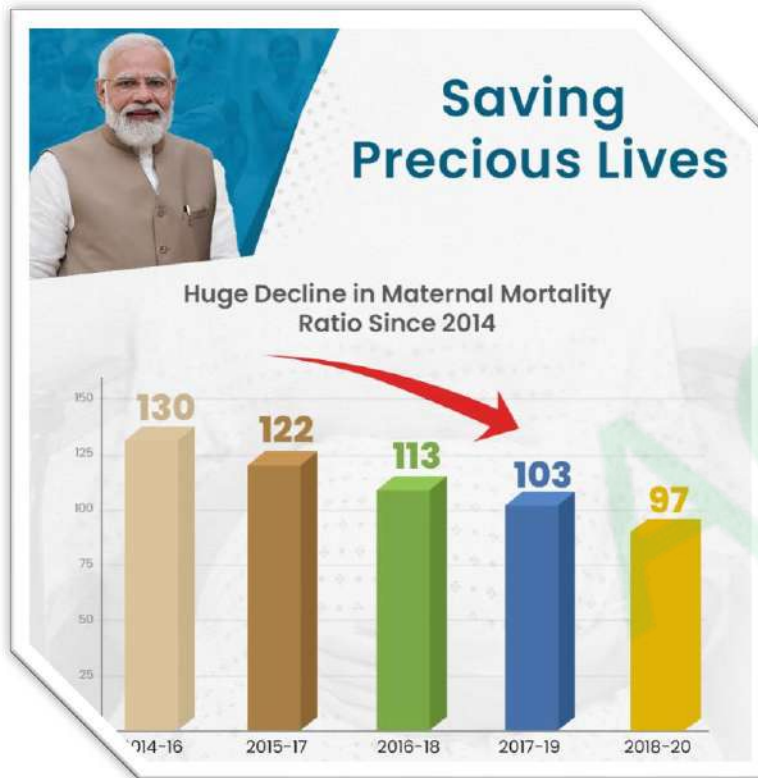
- The Haryana Cabinet led by Chief Minister **Nayab Singh Saini** launched the **Pandit Lakhmi Chand Kalakar Samajik Samman Yojana** on 5th May 2025.
- This scheme offers **monthly financial help to elderly and economically weaker artistes in Haryana.**
- It will provide monthly financial support to senior artistes aged 60 and above who have contributed significantly to the cultural arts for over 20 years.
- It also promotes traditional arts by valuing and supporting the artists who have kept them alive.

FIFA Announces Host Cities for 2027 Women's World Cup in Brazil



- FIFA has officially announced the **eight cities in Brazil** that will host matches during the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup.
- The tournament, set to take place from **June 24 to July 25, 2027**, will feature **32 teams** competing across stadiums that previously hosted the 2014 Men's World Cup,
- **Maracana Stadium**, Belo Horizonte, capital Brasilia, Fortaleza, Porto Alegre, Recife, Salvador and Sao Paulo are the host cities for the first edition of the tournament in South America.
- All of the stadiums were also used for the **2014 men's World Cup** hosted by Brazil.

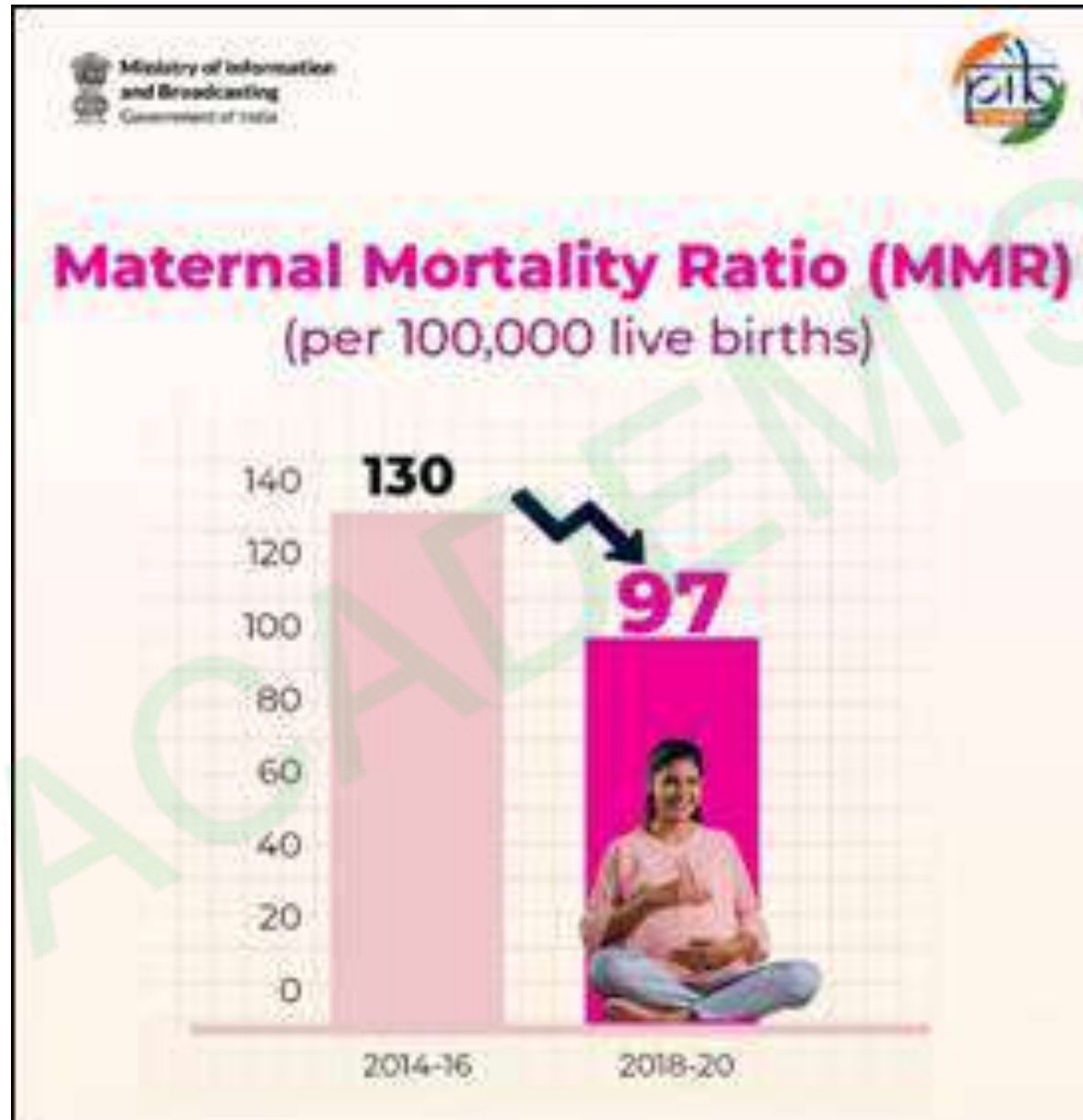
India's Maternal Mortality Ratio Declines



- India's latest **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)** data was released by the Registrar-General of India.
- Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) is defined as the **number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births**.
- It serves as a key indicator of a country's maternal healthcare system and overall health quality.
- Maternal Mortality Ratio in India dropped to **93 per 100,000 live births** in 2019–21, down from 97 (2018–20) and 103 (2017–19).

- The UN aims to reduce the global MMR to below 70 per 100,000 live births, a target India is progressively working towards.
- The highest MMR occurs in the 20-29 age group, and the second highest in the 30-34 age group.
- Several States, including Madhya Pradesh (175), Assam (167), Uttar Pradesh (151), Odisha (135), Chhattisgarh (132), West Bengal (109), and Haryana (106), have high MMRs.
- India witnesses a steady downward trend in maternal and child mortality towards achievement of SDG 2030 targets

- **Infant Mortality Rate declined from 39 per 1000 live births in 2014 to 27 per 1000 live births in 2021**
- **Neonatal Mortality Rate falls from 26 per 1000 live births in 2014 to 19 per 1000 live births in 2021**
- **Under-Five Mortality Rate has dropped from 45 per 1000 live births in 2014 to 31 per 1000 live births in 2021**



BrahMos Missile Production to Begin in Lucknow



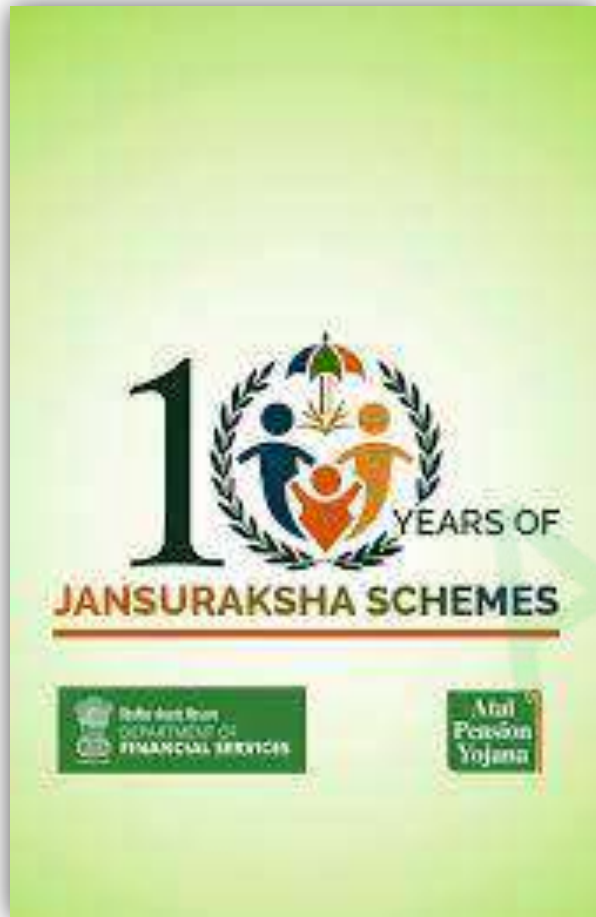
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** virtually inaugurated the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** production facility at the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor in **Lucknow**.
- Built with an investment of **₹300 crore**, the unit aims to manufacture **80–100 BrahMos missiles annually**, significantly enhancing India's self-reliance in defence manufacturing amid growing regional security concerns.
- BrahMos Aerospace was created as a joint venture between the India's DRDO and NPO Mashino-stroyeniya (NPOM) of the Government of the Russian Federation.
- The name 'BrahMos' comes from two famous rivers — **Brahmaputra (symbolising strength) and Moskva (symbolising peace)**.

La Prensa has been awarded the 2025 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.



- Nicaragua's century-old newspaper **La Prensa** has been awarded the **2025 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize**.
- Despite facing escalating repression from **the Ortega-Murillo** regime—including arrests, exile, and asset confiscation—La Prensa has continued its fearless reporting, championing truth and accountability in a country where press freedoms have dramatically eroded.
- La Prensa, founded in 1926, is one of Nicaragua's oldest and most respected newspapers.
- World Press Freedom Prize 2025 announced on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day (3 May 2025).

10 Years of Jan Suraksha Schemes



- The three Jansuraksha schemes have completed 10 years of providing social security cover
- The three schemes- Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) were launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 9th May 2015.
- All three schemes were envisioned to extend affordable financial protection to all, particularly the underserved and vulnerable sections of society.
- As of April 23, 2025, the scheme has recorded **23.63 crore enrollments**
- **10.66 crore women** have enrolled in PMJJBY, and 7.08 crore enrollments were from PM Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) account holders.

Justice Surya Kant Appointed as NALSA Executive Chairman



- The President of India has nominated **Justice Surya Kant** as the new Executive Chairman of **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)**, effective May 14, 2025.
- He succeeds **Justice BR Gavai** and will lead efforts to provide free legal aid across India.
- His leadership is expected to reinforce the constitutional mandate of **Article 39-A**, which aims to guarantee that justice is not denied to any citizen due to financial or social constraints.
- Appointment under **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**

Virat Kohli Retires from Test Cricket



- Indian cricket legend **Virat Kohli** has officially announced his retirement from Test cricket
- He is a **right-handed batsman** and occasional right-arm medium pace bowler.
- Virat Kohli has stepped down as the Test captain of the Indian Men's cricket team.
- Kohli replaced MS Dhoni in 2015 as the captain of the Indian team and became the most successful Test captain with 40 wins in 68 matches.
- He became the first-ever Asian captain to win a Test series in Australia.

- Over a 14-year-long Test career, Virat Kohli played 123 matches, scoring an impressive 9230 runs at an average of 46.85.
- Kohli retires as India's fourth-highest run-scorer in Test cricket, behind only Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, and Sunil Gavaskar.
- His highest score came in 2019, a phenomenal 254 not out against South Africa.
- Kohli's tally includes 30 centuries and 31 half-centuries, placing him among India's all-time greats.
- Kohli has the most Player of the Series and second most Player of the Match awards to his name in all three formats combined.
- He was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 2013
- Padma Shri in 2017
- India's highest sporting honour, the Khel Ratna Award, in 2018.

Deepika Kumari Clinches Bronze at Archery World Cup Stage 2

- At the **Archery World Cup Stage 2**, India finished its campaign with seven medals, including **two gold, one silver and four bronze medals** in **Shanghai, China**
- India's **Parth Sushant Salunkhe** clinched a Bronze medal in Men's Individual Recurve
- **Deepika Kumari** also won a Bronze in Women's Individual Recurve event.
- **Madhura Dhamangaonkar** clinched a gold medal in the women's compound event
- The Indian men's trio of **Abhishek Verma, Rishabh Yadav and Ojas Deotale** finished at the top of the podium in the compound team category.
- The third stage of the World Cup held in **Antalya, Turkey** from June 3rd to 8th.



Taliban Suspends Chess in Afghanistan Over Sharia Law Concerns



- The Taliban government has suspended **chess in Afghanistan** until further notice, citing concerns that the game may be linked to gambling, which is illegal under the country's strict interpretation of Islamic law.
- Chess, in the view of **Atal Mashwani**, a government sports department spokesperson, is being treated as gambling according to **Sharia law**, which is strictly adhered to by the Taliban.
- Last year, the authorities banned free fighting such as **mixed martial arts (MMA)** in professional competition, saying it was too "violent" and "problematic with respect to sharia".

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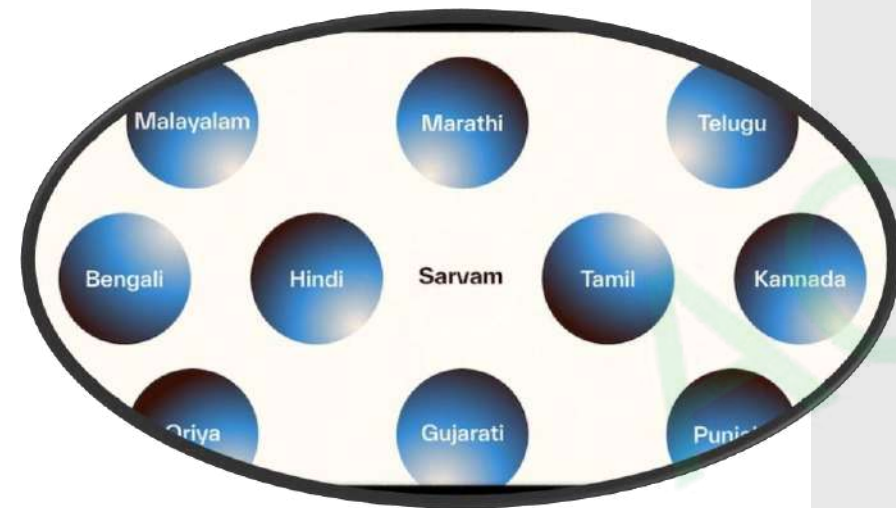
FaceAge: AI Tool Uses Selfies to Predict Biological Age and Cancer

Outcomes



- **FaceAge**, an innovative AI system, is set to revolutionize personalized cancer care by determining a person's biological age through a simple selfie.
- Unlike chronological age, biological age reflects an individual's physical condition, aiding doctors in making informed treatment choices.
- Researchers revealed its potential to improve cancer treatment planning by accurately assessing biological age.
- Biological age reflects actual physiological condition, which can differ due to lifestyle, genetics, and illness.
- Traditional tools to determine biological age include DNA-based tests, which are expensive and time-consuming.

Sarvam AI Launches Bulbul-v2 with Realistic Indian Accents



- Bengaluru-based AI startup **Sarvam AI** has launched its latest text-to-speech (TTS) model, **Bulbul-v2**, designed specifically to cater to India's diverse linguistic landscape.
- Supporting **11 Indian languages**, the model offers natural, human-like voices with authentic regional accents, making it a promising tool for businesses, brands, and developers seeking voice customisation for Indian audiences.
- **Bulbul-v1** was launched in August 2024 with six preset voice personalities.
- Sarvam AI became the first Indian startup selected to **develop a sovereign**

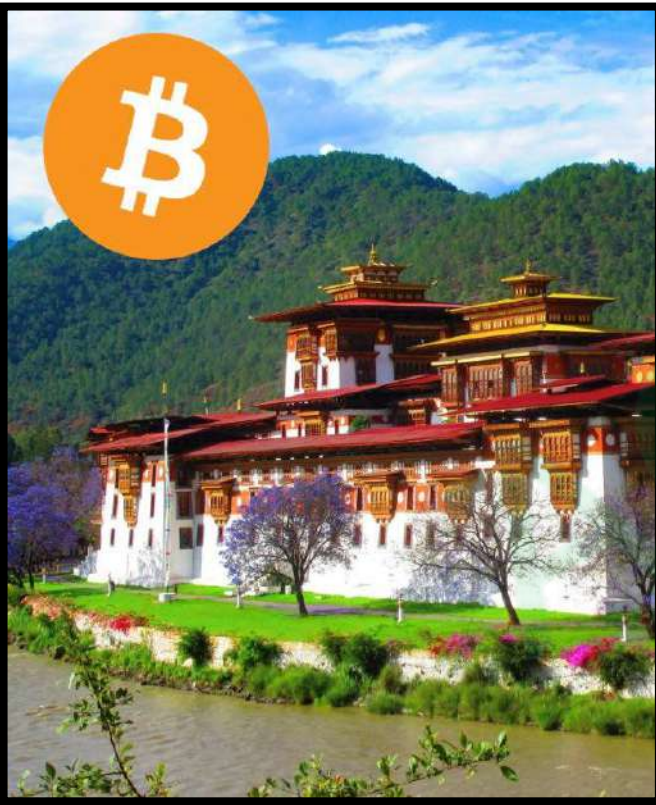
Indian LLM(Large Language Mode) with reasoning and voice capabilities.

Scientists create first 'Pangenome' of Asian Rice



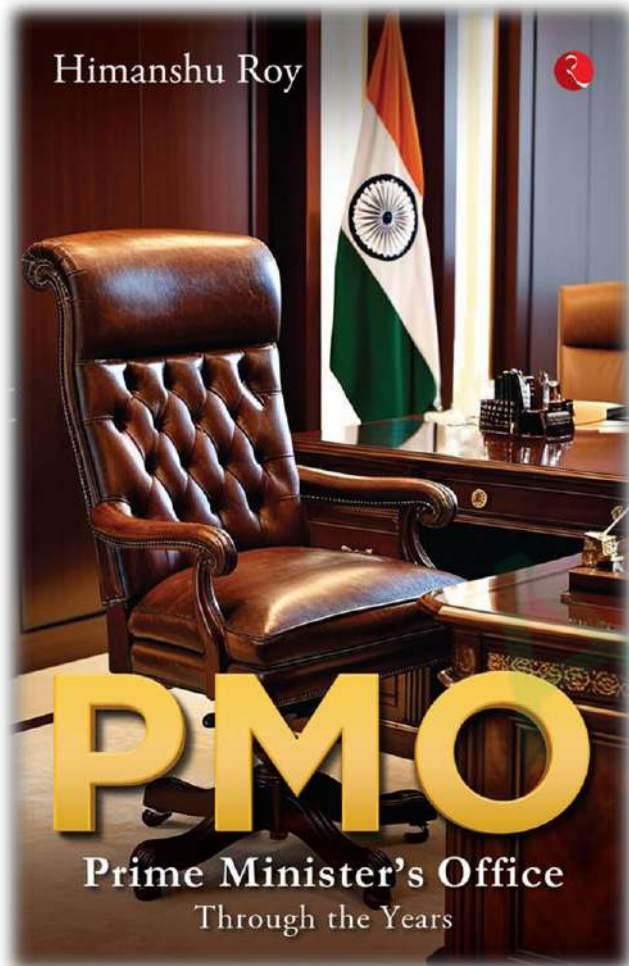
- **Chinese researchers** has developed a first-of-its-kind rice pangenome by integrating genetic data from 144 wild and cultivated rice varieties from Asia (similar to the Human Genome Project)
- First-ever pangenome of Asian cultivated rice- **Oryza sativa L.**
- Pangenome is a collection of genome sequences from many individuals of the same species.
- Scientists created it by stitching together key parts of **genomes from 144 varieties** of wild and cultivated varieties of rice from Asia using '**PacBio high-fidelity**' (HiFi) sequencing technology.

Bhutan Becomes First Country to Integrate Crypto Payments in Tourism



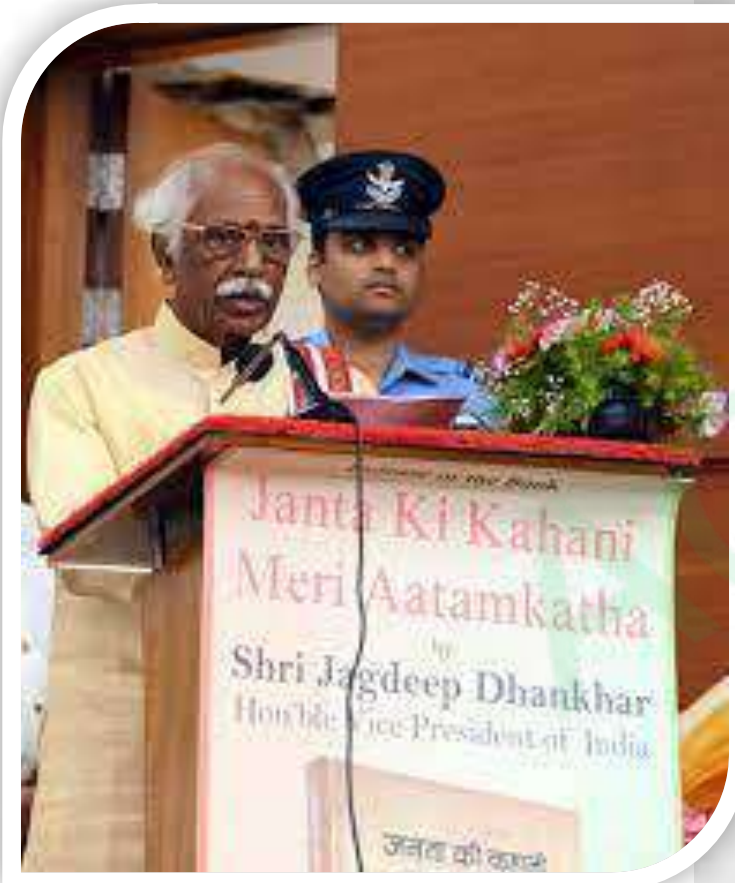
- **Bhutan** has become the first country to launch a national cryptocurrency tourism payment system in partnership with **Binance Pay and DK Bank**, enabling fully cashless travel using cryptocurrencies.
- The system supports over **300 cryptocurrencies** like Binance Coin (BNB), Bitcoin (BTC), and USD Coin (USDC), facilitating seamless QR code-based real-time payments.
- This initiative seeks to lower transaction costs, boost tourism, and improve financial inclusion in Bhutan.
- Currency: **Bhutanese Ngultrum (BTN)**
- In India, cryptocurrency is not a legal tender, but not banned either.

PMO Through the Ages: Book by Himanshu Roy



- A new book titled “***PMO: Prime Minister's Office Through the Years***” by author and academician **Himanshu Roy**
- The book has been released, offering a detailed examination of the evolution and growing influence of India’s most powerful administrative institution—the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO).
- To trace the institutional evolution of the PMO since India’s independence.
- **First of its kind** to offer an integrated historical and political analysis of the PMO.

Bandaru Dattatraya's Autobiography 'Janta Ki Kahani' Released



- Vice-President **Jagdeep Dhankhar** formally unveiled '**Janta Ki Kahani – Meri Aatamkatha**', the autobiography of **Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatraya**, in a ceremony at Maharashtra Sadan, Delhi.
- Bandaru Dattatreya is an Indian politician serving as the current governor of the State of **Haryana** since 2021.
- He was also the 20th governor of Himachal Pradesh and was the member of Lok Sabha for **Secunderabad** from 2014 to 2019.
- He belongs to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Bhuwan Ribhu Becomes First Indian Lawyer to Receive World Law

Congress Honour

- Renowned lawyer and child rights activist **Bhuwan Ribhu** has become the first Indian lawyer to receive the Medal of Honour from the World Jurist Association.
- Awarded during the World Law Congress 2025 held in the Dominican Republic
- Bhuwan Ribhu is a lawyer and human rights advocate who founded **Just Rights for Children (JRC)**—a global legal intervention network with 250+ partner organisations in India, Nepal, Kenya, and the USA.
- World Jurist Association Medal of Honour is one of the **highest recognitions for legal professionals globally.**
- Presented by **Javier Cremades**, President of the World Jurist Association.



Government Fixes 23rd September as Ayurveda Day to Ensure Consistent Global Celebrations



- The government has officially designated **23rd September as Ayurveda Day**.
- Replacing the earlier practice of celebrating it on **Dhanteras**, a Hindu festival with a variable date.
- It also noted that in the coming decade, the date of Dhanteras would continue to vary widely between **15th October and 12th November**, posing logistical challenges for organising national and international observances.
- The Ministry urged the citizens, health professionals, academic bodies, and international partners to embrace the newly designated date and actively participate in Ayurveda Day celebrations on 23rd September each year.

India Rolls Over \$50 Million Treasury Bill to Support Debt-Ridden

Maldives



- India has extended financial support to the Maldives by rolling over (renewing) a **USD 50 million Treasury Bill**, under a special government-to-government (G2G) framework that began in 2019.
- India recognized Maldives in **1965** and established its mission in Malé in 1972. Both are founding members of SAARC and signatories to SAFTA.
- Maldives President: **Mohamed Muizzu.**
- Facilitator: **State Bank of India (SBI)**
- Term: **Rolled over for 1 more year**
- Purpose: **Provide financial breathing space to Maldives amid debt crisis**

- T-Bills are short-term debt instruments issued by the Government of India through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- They form part of Government Securities (G-Secs) and help raise short-term funds.
- These are zero-coupon securities, meaning they do not pay periodic interest.
- Instead, they are issued at a discount and redeemed at face value on maturity.
- G-Secs are tradable debt instruments issued by the Central to borrow funds from the public with a contractual obligation to repay the principal on a specified date.
- They are issued with maturities of 91, 182, and 364 days and are sold at a discount from their face value.
- Investors earn returns from the difference between the purchase price and maturity amount.

Anita Anand becomes Canada's first Hindu woman foreign minister:



- **Anita Anand** became the first Hindu woman to be sworn in as **Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs**.
- She took her oath of office with her hand on the Bhagavad Gita, symbolizing her Hindu faith.
- The cabinet reshuffle follows Carney's electoral victory in April 2025, replacing Justin Trudeau
- The appointment of an Indian-origin MP as Foreign Minister under the newly elected **Mark Carney government** comes amid strained ties between Canada and India.

Former Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar Takes Charge at UPSC Chair



- President Droupadi Murmu has appointed **Dr. Ajay Kumar** as the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission.
- Dr. Kumar is a retired Indian Administrative Service officer from the 1985 batch of the **Kerala cadre**.
- He previously served as the **Defence Secretary** from August 2019 to October 2022.
- His appointment, sanctioned by the President of India, fills the vacancy created after **Preeti Sudan's** tenure ended in April 2025.

India Becomes 'Country Champion' at World Bank Land Conference 2025



- India marked a strong and impactful presence at the **World Bank Land Conference 2025**.
- In the four day conference held from **5th to 8th May 2025**, in **Washington D.C.**, India assumed the role of a Country Champion under the leadership of Shri **Vivek Bharadwaj**, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- During the conference, global attention was drawn towards India's flagship initiatives like **SVAMITVA Scheme and Gram Manchitra platform**, as models of inclusive, technology-driven rural governance.
- This year's conference, themed "**Securing Land Tenure and Access for Climate Action: Moving from Awareness to Action**",

- **SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas):**
 - Establish clear ownership of residential property in rural areas.
 - Drone-based mapping of land parcels.
- **Gram Manchitra Platform**
 - A GIS-based platform to help Gram Panchayats plan local development.
 - Promotes data-driven, climate-resilient, and integrated development planning.
 - Helps convergence of multiple schemes at village level.
 - Especially relevant to the Global South with its adaptability to local governance systems.

Padma Shri Scientist Subbanna Ayyappan Found Dead



- Padma Shri awardee and aquaculture pioneer scientist **Subbanna Ayyappan**, who had been missing for several days, was found dead
- His body was recovered from the Cauvery River at Srirangapatna and later identified by police.
- Ayyappan is widely credited for having spearheaded India's **Blue Revolution**, aimed at revolutionising aquaculture in India.
- Ayyappan was the **first fisheries scientist to become the Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**.
 - This was historic because ICAR had traditionally been headed by crop scientists.
- He was awarded the **Padma Shri in 2022** in recognition of his significant contributions.

Neeraj Chopra Honoured with Honorary Lt. Colonel Rank in Territorial Army



- Two-time Olympic medallist and javelin throw star **Neeraj Chopra** has been conferred with the honorary rank of **Lieutenant Colonel** by the **Indian Army**.
- Neeraj joined the Indian Army as a **junior commissioned officer** in the rank of Naib Subedar on August 26, 2016.
- The 27-year-old Indian athlete was awarded the **Param Vishisht Seva Medal** - the highest peacetime medal of the Indian Army - in 2022.
- The two-time Olympic medallist will be next seen in action at the **Doha Diamond League** on May 16, 2025.

- He first won the gold medal at the 2020 Olympics, becoming the first Asian javelin thrower to do so.
- He then became the first Asian to win a gold in javelin at the World Championships after his win in 2023
- Padma Shri- 2022
- Chopra was the only track and field athlete that year to be recommended by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) for the country's highest sports award, the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna-2021
- He was awarded the Arjuna Award in September 2018

World's First Commercial-Scale E-Methanol Plant Begins Operations in Denmark



- The world's first commercial-scale e-methanol plant began operations in **Denmark**
- The shipping sector is under pressure to find **new sources of fuel after** a majority of countries gave their backing to measures to help meet the International Maritime Organization's targets towards eliminating carbon emissions by 2050.
- So far zero-emission shipping fuels, such as **green ammonia and e-methanol**, which are produced using renewable energy, have tended to be more expensive than conventional fuel largely because they are not produced at scale.
- Traditional methanol is typically produced from natural gas and coal.
- The **Kasso plant** will make e-methanol using renewable energy and CO2 captured from biogas plants and waste incineration.

Brazilian Scientist Mariangela Hungria Wins 2025 World Food Prize for Sustainable Farming Innovation



- Brazilian microbiologist **Mariangela Hungria** has been awarded the prestigious **2025 World Food Prize** for her groundbreaking research on biological nitrogen fixation, a natural process that enables crops to grow with fewer chemical fertilizers.
- Her work has played a pivotal role in boosting Brazil's soybean production, making it the world's largest producer.
- The World Food Prize, founded by Nobel laureate **Norman Borlaug** in 1987, honors individuals contributing significantly to global food security.

India Successfully Tests Bhargavastra: Indigenous System to Counter Drone Swarms



- On May 13, 2025, the '**Bhargavastra**' system was successfully tested at the Seward Firing Range in Gopalpur, Odisha.
- It is an indigenous counter drone system that operates in hard-kill mode.
- It is capable of destroying drone swarms and single drones.
- This system is technologically advanced, cost-effective and an example of the 'Make in India' mission.
- Named after the divine weapon of Mahabharata era 'Bhargavastra', It was the most powerful weapon created by Lord Parashurama
- It has been designed and developed by **Solar Defense and Aerospace Limited (SDAL)**.

ICC Men's Player of the Month for April 2025 announced



- Bangladesh all-rounder **Mehidy Hasan Miraz** and Scotland captain **Kathryn Bryce** have been named ICC Men's and Women's Player of the Month for April 2025, respectively.
- Miraz became just the third player from Bangladesh to win the men's monthly award after Shakib al Hasan, who won in March 2023 and Mushfiqur Rahim

Anurag Bhushan Appointed as India's Ambassador to Sweden



- Senior diplomat **Anurag Bhushan**, from the 1995 batch of the Indian Foreign Service, has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to Sweden, as per a May 15, 2025 announcement by the Ministry of External Affairs
- His posting comes at a time when India-Sweden ties are witnessing significant growth, particularly in innovation, climate action, and trade, making the appointment geopolitically significant.
- **LeadIT 2.0**, launched at COP28 (Dubai, 2023), is a joint India-Sweden platform on low-carbon industrial transition.

Srihari LR Becomes India's 86th Chess Grandmaster



- **Srihari LR** of Tamil Nadu became the **86th Grandmaster (GM)** of India at the Asian Individual Men's Chess Championship 2025 in Al Ain, UAE.
- The first Indian Grandmaster was **Vishwanathan Anand**, achieving the title in 1988.
- The first Indian woman Grandmaster was **Koneru Humpy**, who achieved the title in 2002 at the age of 15, becoming the world's youngest female Grandmaster at the time.
- Currently, there are three women Grandmasters in India: **Koneru Humpy**, **Dronavalli Harika**, and **R. Vaishali**.

Pankaj Advani Clinches 2025 CCI Billiards Classic Title in Mumbai



- **Pankaj Advani** won the **2025 CCI Billiards Classic title**, held at the Cricket Club of India (CCI), Mumbai, by defeating **Dhruv Sitwala** in the final match.
- The win marks Advani's **third title at the CCI Billiards Classic** and adds to his astonishing tally of 28 world championships across billiards, snooker, and pool.
- Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian honour- 2018
- Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna- 2005–06
- Arjuna Award 2004

Celebrating 50 Years of Sikkim's Statehood



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed the “**Sikkim@50: Where Progress meets purpose and nature nurtures growth**” event in Gangtok, Sikkim on 29 May 2025.
- He also released a commemorative **coin and stamp** on the 50th anniversary of Sikkim's statehood.
- The Princely state of Sikkim joined the Union of India in 1974 as an **associate state** with the enactment of the **35th Constitutional Amendment Act 1974**.
- Following a referendum in 1975, around 97 per cent of the population approved Sikkim's merger with India.
- The **36th Constitutional Amendment Act 1975** made Sikkim the **22nd state of India**.

President Murmu Invokes Article 143 Over Governors' Bill Assent

Powers



- President Droupadi Murmu has utilized the rarely **invoked Article 143(1)** of the Constitution to refer a matter to the **Supreme Court concerning** its order about timelines for governors and the President in granting assent to bills passed by state legislatures.
- President Murmu has presented **14 questions** to the Supreme Court, emphasizing their critical nature and public importance, necessitating the court's opinion.
- This move follows the Court's April 8 ruling in State of **Tamil Nadu vs The Governor of Tamil Nadu case**, mandating a three-month decision period, which has raised concerns over judicial overreach.

Justice Bela M Trivedi Judge of Supreme Court, Retires



- **Justice Bela M Trivedi**, Eleventh Woman Judge of Supreme Court, Retires After 3.5 Years of Service
- First woman judge from the Gujarat High Court to be elevated to the Supreme Court,
- She was appointed to the Supreme Court on August 31, 2021.
- Part of the 5-judge Bench that upheld **10% reservation** for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).
- Dissenting(disagreeing) judge in a 6:1 ruling that allowed **sub-categorisation within Scheduled Castes by states.**

Pushkar Kumbh Returns to Keshav Prayag After 12 Years



- After a 12-year wait, the **Pushkar Kumbh** has commenced at Keshav Prayag in Mana village, **Chamoli district, Uttarakhand**.
- Inaugurated by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami **on May 15, 2025**
- Rooted in ancient **Vaishnavite traditions**, the event coincides with the entry of planet Jupiter into the Gemini sign, a rare celestial occurrence.
- This sacred site is located at the confluence of the **Alaknanda and Saraswati rivers**.

Yala Glacier declared dead in Langtang, Nepal



- **Yala Glacier**, situated in **Langtang Valley, Nepal**, within the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region
- It is the **first glacier in Nepal to be declared “dead”** as it has shrunk by 66% since the 1970s.
- Glaciers are declared "dead" when they no longer show movement or flow under their own weight.
- It is the first glacier in Asia to bear a **climate memorial plaque**, with messages in **English, Nepali, and Tibetan languages**.
- The **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)** held a ceremony to commemorate the rapid retreat of Nepal's Yala Glacier in Langtang Valley, which is threatened to vanish by 2040 due to climate change.

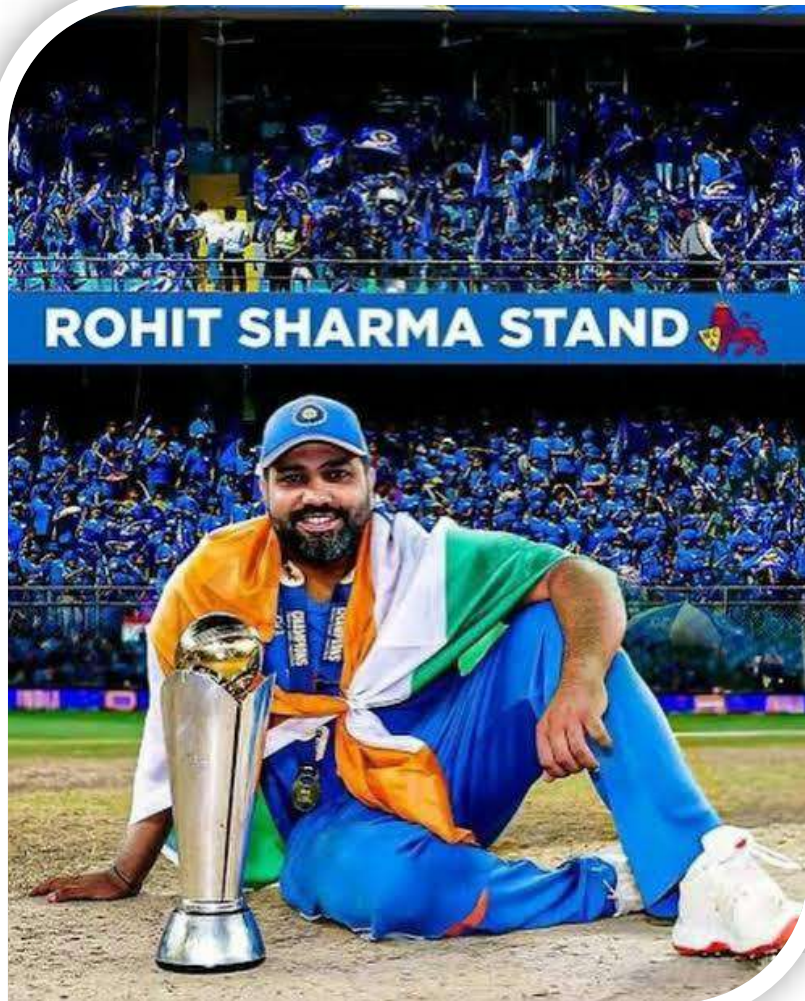
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CURRENT AFFAIRS

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Rohit Sharma Stand Inaugurated At Wankhede Stadium



- Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) held a special ceremony at the Wankhede Stadium to honour India's cricketing icon **Rohit Sharma** by renaming a stand after him.
- The tribute followed his recent retirement from Test and T20 formats, and acknowledged his leadership in India's recent success at ICC.

Neeraj Chopra Crosses 90m Mark, Finishes Second in Doha Diamond

League 2025



- Indian Javelin Thrower **Neeraj Chopra** finished second at the **2025 Doha Diamond League Men's Javelin Throw event**
- Despite a record-breaking 90.23 meter throw, Neeraj had to settle behind **Germany's Julian Weber**, who startled everyone with a final throw of 91.06 meters.
- Neeraj's previous personal best was 89.94m achieved at the Stockholm Diamond League two years back
- Chopra is now the 3rd Asian and 25th javelin thrower ever to breach the 90m mark.
- India's **Parul Chaudhary** finished 6th in women's 3000m steeplechase event

“Samudrayaan: India’s First Manned Deep Ocean Mission to Launch by 2026”



- India is poised to make a significant leap in marine exploration with the launch of its first manned deep ocean mission, ‘**Samudrayaan**’, scheduled for **2026**.
- Samudrayaan is part of the larger **Deep Ocean Mission (DOM)**, launched in **2021** by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.
- It is a **fourth-generation manned submersible vehicle**, indigenously developed.
- Can carry three crew members to depths of **6,000 meters**.
- Has an operational endurance of 12 hours and emergency endurance of up to 96 hours.

India-Japan's LUPEX Mission Enters Design Phase

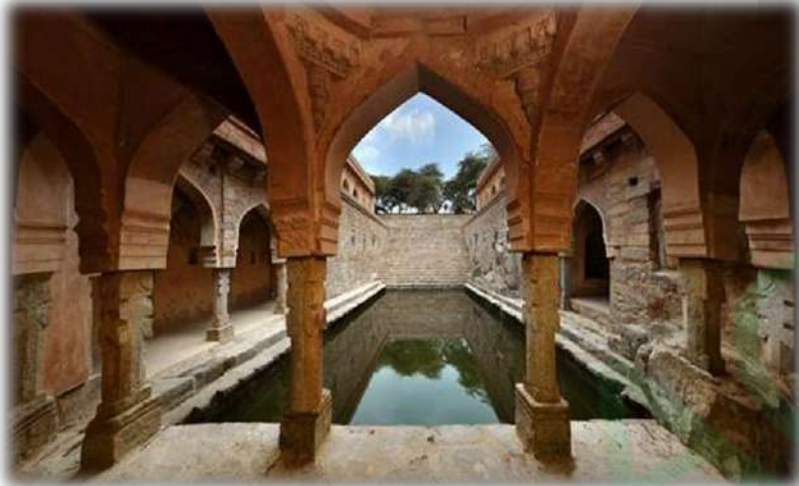


- India and Japan have begun the preliminary design phase of the Chandrayaan-5 mission, also known as **LUPEX (Lunar Polar Exploration)**.
- It is a collaborative mission between **ISRO and JAXA**.
- Approval: Cabinet approval for the mission was granted on **March 10, 2025**.
- It will carry a 6.5-tonne payload and launch aboard **Japan's H3 rocket in 2027–28**.
- The **lander is being developed by ISRO** and the **350-kg rover by JAXA**.
- The mission is expected to last **100 days**, with a possible extension of one year.

- LUPEX aims to land near the Moon's south pole, a region that has been largely unexplored. This area is of particular interest due to the potential presence of water-ice in permanently shadowed craters, which could be vital for sustaining future lunar missions.
- **Chandrayaan-1 (2008):** First mission, focused on mineral and chemical mapping.
- **Chandrayaan-2 (2019):** Orbiter mission with 98% success.
- **Chandrayaan-3 (2023):** Achieved a historic soft landing on the Moon's south pole.
- **Chandrayaan-4 (Upcoming, 2027)**

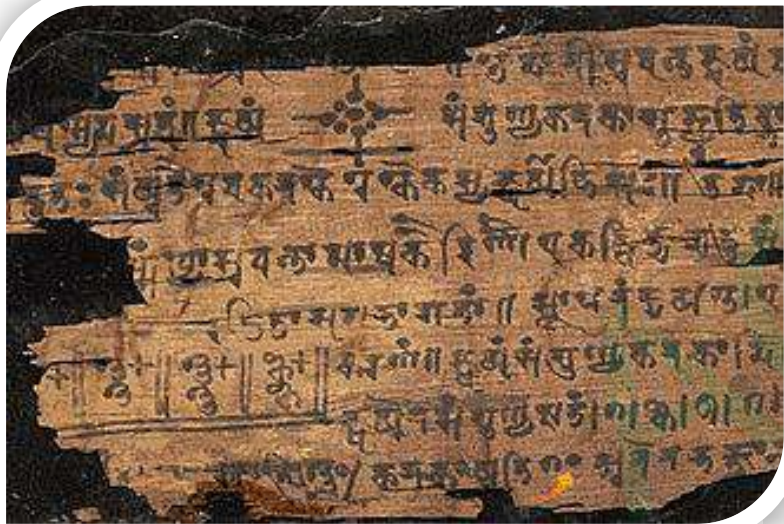
Archaeological Survey of India restores 16th-century stepwell in Delhi's

Mehrauli



- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), along with World Monuments Fund India (WMFI) and the TCS Foundation, has successfully restored the 16th-century stepwell, **Rajon ki Baoli**, located in Mehrauli Archaeological Park, Delhi.
- The restoration project, which is part of the "**Historic Water Systems of India**" initiative, focused on cleaning, desilting, structural repairs, and water quality improvements using traditional materials and techniques
- Built around 1506 during the **Lodi dynasty**, Rajon ki Baoli stands as a testament to Lodhi-era architecture and traditional water engineering.
- This four-tiered stepwell was thoughtfully designed not only to store water but also to offer shade and rest to travellers.

Gyan Bharatam Mission



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the revamped National Manuscripts Mission (NMM) on June 9, 2025, under the new title '**Gyan Bharatam Mission**'
- The mission aiming to preserve India's vast manuscript heritage.
- With a significant budget increase from ₹**3.5 crore to ₹60 crore**, this initiative will survey, document, digitize, and conserve over one crore manuscripts lying in academic institutions, libraries, museums, and private collections.
- National Manuscripts Mission (NMM) was established in **2003**, under the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)**.

RBI to Issue New Rs 20 Banknotes with Governor Sanjay Malhotra's

Signature



- The Reserve Bank of India has declared its plan to issue fresh ₹20 denomination notes featuring the signature of its new Governor, **Sanjay Malhotra**.
- These notes will continue under the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series and will maintain the same design and features, ensuring a smooth transition.
- Design, colour, size, and features remain unchanged.
- The Rs 20 note in this series is **greenish-yellow** in colour and measures **63 mm × 129 mm**.
- The reverse side will continue to display the **Ellora Caves** motif.
- All previously issued Rs 20 banknotes remain legal tender.

India Clinches SAFF U-19 Title



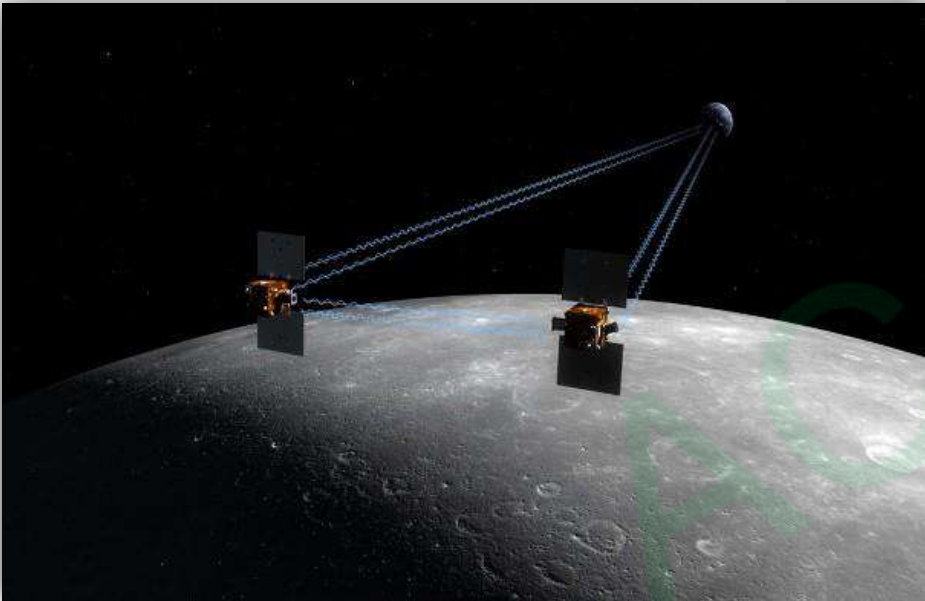
- **India** clinched the **South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-19 Championship 2025**, beating **Bangladesh** 4-3 in a penalty shootout in the final at the **Yupia Outdoor Stadium in Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh**
- Third place: **Maldives, Nepal**
- Host country: **India**
- **Bangladesh** were the defending champions, who won their maiden title by defeating Nepal in 2024
- Most successful team: **India(4 titles)**

Carlos Alcaraz Clinches First Italian Open Title



- **Carlos Alcaraz** defeated Jannik Sinner to win his **first-ever Italian Open title**
- Carlos Alcaraz is a **Spanish tennis player**; Roland Garros 2024 champion.
- The victory marks Alcaraz's 7th Masters 1000 title and further solidifies his dominance on clay
- Becoming the **third player since 1990** to win all major clay court titles under the ATP Tour.
- This win also ends Sinner's incredible 26-match winning streak.

NASA's GRAIL Mission Solves Lunar Mystery of Moon's Asymmetry



- **GRAIL (Gravity Recovery and Interior Laboratory)** was a **NASA lunar science mission** aimed at mapping the Moon's gravitational field in high resolution.
- The mission has finally resolved a decades-old mystery about why the Moon's nearside looks dramatically different from its far side
- Gravitational and thermal differences caused by Earth's pull and internal heat sources are responsible for the asymmetrical appearance of the Moon's two hemispheres
- Launched in **2011** using a Delta II rocket from Cape Canaveral.
- Conducted by NASA's **Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)** in collaboration with MIT for scientific oversight.

Isro's PSLV-C61 mission fail after launching



- The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) faced a setback as its trusted **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C61)** mission failed to deliver the **EOS-09 satellite** into its intended orbit after launching from Sriharikota.
- The mission, launched from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre** on May 18, 2025, failed due to an unexpected issue in the **third stage of the PSLV rocket**.
- The PSLV-C61, marking the **63rd flight of the PSLV series** and the 27th in its XL configuration, was tasked with placing the advanced Earth observation satellite EOS-09 into a sun-synchronous polar orbit.
- ISRO Chairman **V. Narayanan** confirmed technical failure and assured post-mission analysis.

“India Charts New Sea Route for North-East via Myanmar, Skipping Bangladesh”



- India is set to redefine connectivity to its **North-Eastern states** with the development of a **high-speed four-lane highway** from **Shillong to Silchar**, bypassing Bangladesh and integrating with the **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project in Myanmar**.
- This move is seen as a strategic response to Bangladesh’s interim leader Muhammad Yunus, who recently claimed that Northeast India is “landlocked” and **relies on Dhaka as its only ocean gateway**.
- India shares a **1,643 km land border with Myanmar**, connecting Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram.
- Myanmar serves as India’s gateway to Southeast Asia, making it vital for trade and connectivity.

Operation Olivia: A Marine Conservation Success by the Indian Coast

Guard



- In a major boost to marine conservation, the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**, through its annual mission **Operation Olivia**, has successfully protected nearly **6.98 lakh Olive Ridley turtles** that nested at the Rushikulya river mouth in Odisha in February 2025.
- It was launched in the early **1980s** to protect Olive Ridley turtles during their breeding and nesting season along the Odisha coast.
- It aims to ensure **safe nesting grounds for these turtles**, by preventing unlawful trawling, particularly at Gahirmatha Beach and nearby coastal area of Odisha.

Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki Erupts: Red Alert Issued Over Volcanic Ash

Cloud



- Indonesia's rumbling **Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki** erupted, sending a column of volcanic materials as high as 18 kilometres into the sky and depositing ash on villages
- Laki-Laki means “**man**” in Indonesian
- Paired with Mount **Lewotobi Perempuan** (“**woman**”), which is taller but currently calmer.

Sudan Appoints Kamil Idris as First PM Since 2023 Civil War



- Sudan's military chief, **Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan** appointed **Kamil Idris** as the first prime minister since civil war erupted in 2023.
- The appointment marks Sudan's **first PM since 2022**, when **Abdalla Hamdok** resigned.
- In 2023, War broke out between Sudan's military and the paramilitary RSF, both once allies in the country's transitional leadership.

China and Cambodia Launch “Golden Dragon-2025” to Boost Military

Ties



- **China and Cambodia** have commenced the "**Golden Dragon-2025**" joint military exercise, marking the seventh iteration of this drill aimed at strengthening military ties and enhancing cooperation
- It marks the **seventh edition** of this annual military cooperation initiative between China and Cambodia, and for the first time, it integrates operations from the **China-Cambodia Ream Port Joint Support and Training Center**.
- Participants: **China's PLA and Cambodian Armed Forces**
- Location: **Cambodia (land and maritime areas including Port Ream)**

Tripura Launches Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan to Empower Farmers



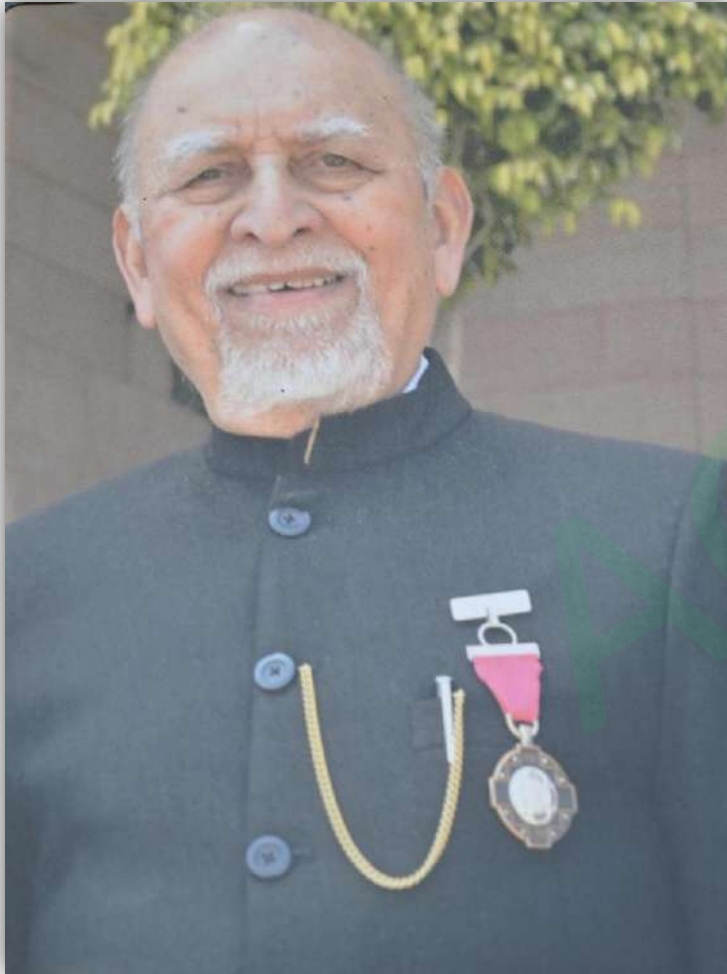
- Tripura has officially announced its participation in the **Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan**, a nationwide agriculture-centric campaign initiated by Union Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**
- It will cover 723 districts in the country.
- In a significant step toward enhancing agricultural productivity and farmer welfare, the Tripura government has announced the launch of the “Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan” from **May 29 to June 12, 2025**.

Padma Vibhushan Astrophysicist Jayant Narlikar Passes Away



- Renowned astrophysicist and Padma Vibhushan recipient, **Dr. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar**, passed away on May 20, 2025, at the age of 86.
- He was known for his contributions to cosmology, particularly his work on alternative models to the Big Bang theory, and for his efforts in popularizing science.
- **Padma Bhushan** in 1965
- **Padma Vibhushan** in 2004
- He was also honored with the **UNESCO Kalinga Prize** for the popularization of science in 1996 and the **Prix Jules Janssen** from the French Astronomical Society in 2004.

Dr. M.R. Srinivasan, renowned nuclear scientist passed away.



- **Srinivasan** joined the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in 1955 and worked under **Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha**, contributing to India's first nuclear reactor, **Apsara**.
- He served as the Principal Project Engineer for India's first atomic power station at **Tarapur** and later as the Chief Project Engineer for the Madras Atomic Power Station.
- Became **Chairman of DAE in 1987** and also **headed the AEC**.
- He became the Founder-Chairman of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), under his leadership, 18 nuclear power units were developed.

- Dr. Srinivasan served as **Senior Advisor to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna** (1990–92), Member of the **Planning Commission** (1996–98), and **National Security Advisory Board** (2002–04, 2006–08).
- He also chaired the **Karnataka Task Force on Higher Education** (2002–04).
- **Padma Shri** (1984)
- **Padma Bhushan** (1990)
- **Padma Vibhushan** (2015).

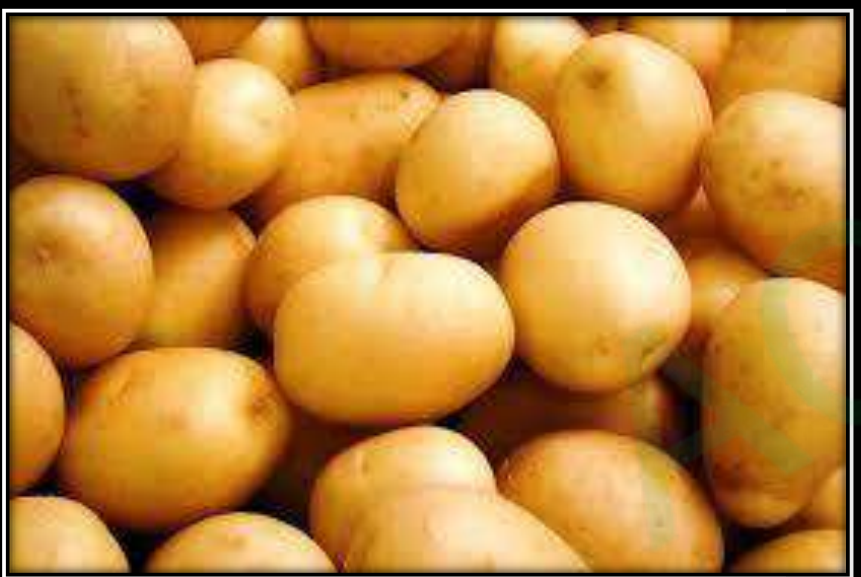
Mizoram Becomes India's First Fully Literate State



- Chief Minister of Mizoram, **Lalduhoma** officially declared Mizoram a **fully literate state**, marking a historic milestone in the state's educational journey.
- With this achievement, Mizoram becomes the **first state in India to attain full literacy**.
- As per the **Office of the Registrar General of India**, a literate person is someone **aged 7 or above who can read and write with understanding in any language**.
- Earlier, in June 2024, **Ladakh** became the first administrative unit in India to achieve full literacy.

- The **Department of School Education and Literacy** has introduced a refined definition of literacy aligned with **NEP 2020 and SDG 4.6 goals**.
 - Literacy is now defined as the **ability to read, write, and compute with comprehension, along with critical life skills such as digital and financial literacy**. This expanded definition aims to ensure full societal participation and economic progress.
 - A state/UT achieving **95% literacy** is considered fully literate.
- Mizoram has exceeded the **95% literacy rate benchmark**, achieving 98.20% literacy as per the PLFS Survey 2023-24, meeting the Ministry of Education's criteria for full functional literacy under the ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) programme.

India Set to Become World's Top Potato Producer by 2050



- India is poised to surpass **China** as the world's leading potato producer by 2050, according to scientists from the Peru-based **International Potato Center (CIP)**.
- India currently produces about **60 million tonnes of potatoes annually**.
- Expected to increase to **100 million tonnes, surpassing China**.
- Potato is known as the “**King of Vegetables**” and is India's fourth most important food crop after rice, wheat, and maize.
- Introduced to India by **Portuguese** traders in the 17th century.
- **Uttar Pradesh**: ~30% of total output

Geeta Samota: First CISF Officer to Summit Mount Everest



- Sub-Inspector **Geeta Samota** of the CISF has achieved a groundbreaking milestone by becoming the first officer from her force to reach the summit of Mount Everest.
- Became the first woman from CAPF to scale,
 - **Mount Satopanth** (7,075 m) – 2019
 - **Mount Lobuche** (6,119 m) – Nepal
- Women's Day Award 2023, Civil Aviation Award

Shivpal Singh Faces 8-Year Ban After Second Failed Dope Test



- India's javelin thrower **Shivpal Singh**, who represented the country at the **Tokyo Olympics**, has failed a dope test for the second time in his athletic career.
- The 29-year-old athlete has been provisionally suspended by the **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)**, and now stares at a possible 8-year ban under anti-doping rules.
- Silver medal at 2019 **Asian Athletics Championships** with a personal best of 86.23m

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2025

JUNE 2

Banu Mushtaq Makes History with International Booker Prize Win



- **Banu Mushtaq**'s short story collection '**Heart Lamp**' has won the International Booker Prize in London.
- Banu has become the **first Indian author writing in Kannada** to win the prestigious International Booker Prize.
- Her award-winning work, Heart Lamp, is a collection of twelve short stories translated into English by **Deepa Bhashti**.
- The book, originally titled in Kannada **Hridaya Deepa**
- 2024: **PEN English Translate Award**, for **Deepa Bhashti's** translation of **Haseena and Other Stories**

- International Booker Prize is a literary award given annually to the best work of fiction translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland.
- It recognizes both the author and translator equally, splitting the £50,000 prize money between them.
- It is open to novels or short-story collections from any language, provided they are translated into English.
- **Geetanjali Shree** – Tomb of Sand (2022), translated by Daisy Rockwell (First Hindi work to win)

National Anti-Terrorism Day 2025

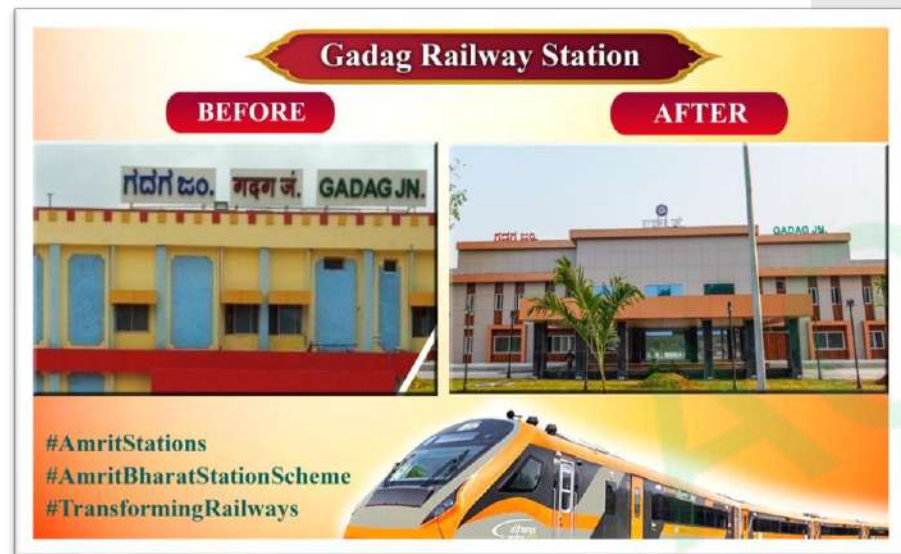


- Anti-Terrorism Day observed every year on **21st May**.
- The day is marked by a pledge taking ceremony among other activities.
- It was on this day in 1991 that former Prime Minister **Rajiv Gandhi** fell to the designs of terrorists.
- Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was killed by a suicide bomber in 1991 in **Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu**
- In the aftermath of this incident, the **V.P. Singh government** declared 21st May as National Anti-Terrorism Day in 1991

PM Modi Inaugurates 103 Amrit Stations Across 18 States Under ₹1,100

Crore Plan

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated **103 Amrit Stations** (through video conference) during an event at **Bikaner, Rajasthan** on 22nd May 2025.
- Karnataka's 05 railway stations i.e. **Munirabad, Bagalkot, Gadag, Gokak Road, Dharwad** are among the 103 Amrit Stations
- These 103 Amrit Stations, situated in **86 districts across 18 States** and Union Territories of India, have been developed at a cost of over **Rs 1,100 crore**.
- Over 1,300 stations are being redeveloped with modern facilities, designed to reflect regional architecture and enhance passenger amenities under the **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS)**.



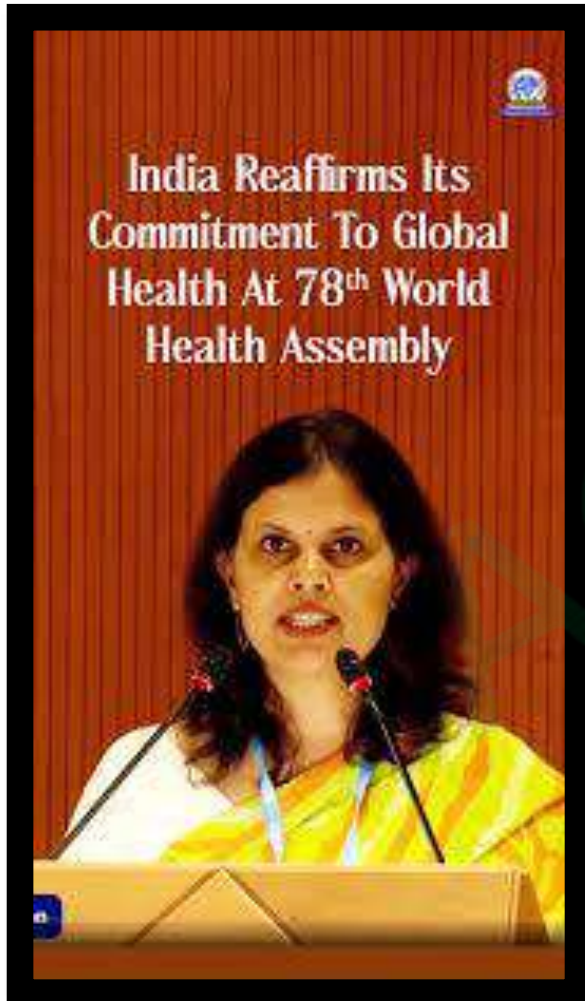
Gujarat's Lion Population Grows by 32% Since 2020



- On May 21, 2025, the Gujarat Forest Department released the **16th Asiatic Lion Census**, highlighting a **32% increase in population since 2020**.
- Gujarat has recorded a remarkable 32% increase in its Asiatic lion population over five years, with numbers climbing to 891 in 2025.
- The Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*) is found only in India, primarily in Gir National Park and its surroundings.
- From 2020 to 2025, lion numbers rose from 674 to 891, a 32% jump.

India Reaffirms Global Health Commitment at 78th World Health

Assembly



- India has reaffirmed its commitment to global health equity at the 78th World Health Assembly in **Geneva**
- Addressing the plenary session of the assembly, Union Health Secretary **Punya Salila Srivastava** emphasized on the transformative strides made under flagship initiatives like **Ayushman Bharat**
- India certified **Trachoma-Free by WHO.**
- India Aims to Eliminate TB, Leprosy, Filariasis, Measles, Rubella, Kala-azar

Arunachal Pradesh Welcomes New Butterfly Species: Euthalia malaccana Recorded for the First Time



- A new butterfly species called **Euthalia Malaccana** has been recorded for the first time in India in Arunachal Pradesh.
- This species is usually found in the **Indo-Australian region**, mainly in Southeast Asia including northern Thailand, the Malay Peninsula, and the Sunda Islands.
- The discovery is important as the species acts as an indicator of ecosystem health.
- This recent finding adds to India's rich biodiversity, especially in the Northeast region.

International Day for Biological Diversity 2025



- To raise a reminder of the pressing need to take action and protect biodiversity, International Day for Biological Diversity is commemorated on **May 22 every year**
- This year's theme "***Harmony with nature and sustainable development***", highlights how this campaign for nature connects with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- International Day for Biological Diversity commemorates the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on **22 May 1992**.
- Initially celebrated on **December 29**, the date was moved to May 22 to mark the CBD's adoption and enable easier planning of events worldwide.

Dr. Saroj Ghose, Pioneer of India's Science Museums, Passes Away at 89



- **Dr. Saroj Ghose**, widely hailed as the father of India's science museum movement, passed away on May 17, 2025
- As the founding Director General of the **National Council of Science Museums (NCSM)**, Dr. Ghose revolutionized informal science learning in India, laying the foundation for a robust network of science centres across the country.
- The National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) was established in **1978** as an autonomous society under the Ministry of Culture.
- Headquartered in **Kolkata**, it oversees 26 science centres and museums across India.

- He played a crucial role in designing landmark institutions such as the Science City in Kolkata, the National Science Centre in New Delhi, and the Nehru Science Centre in Mumbai.
- His tireless efforts earned him the title of "Bhishma Pitamah of Indian Science Museums".
- Dr. Ghose's illustrious career was marked by numerous accolades, including the Padma Bhushan (2007), and the Padma Shri (1989), awarded by the Government of India.

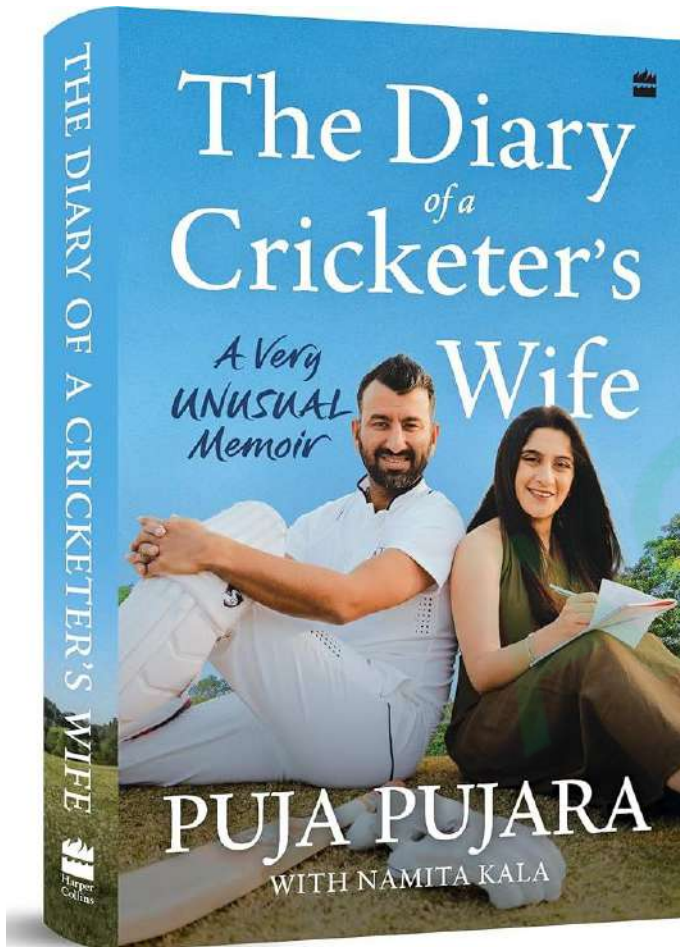
Konkan Railway Set to Merge with Indian Railways



- The Maharashtra government has officially approved the long-pending merger of the **Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) with Indian Railways**, paving the way for the complete integration of this vital coastal rail route.
- With this, all shareholder states—**Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, and now Maharashtra**—have backed the merger, ensuring that the scenic and strategically crucial Konkan route becomes a full-fledged part of India's national railway network
- As per the deal the name “Konkan Railway” must be retained post-merger.

- This decision aims to address financial challenges faced by KRCL and promises better passenger services, connectivity, and regional development
- Established in 1990 as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under the Ministry of Railways.
- Operational since January 1998.
- Total route length: 741 km, connecting Roha (Maharashtra) to Mangaluru (Karnataka) and further to Kerala.
- Shareholding Pattern of KRCL
 - Government of India: 51%
 - Maharashtra: 22%
 - Karnataka: 15%
 - Goa: 6%
 - Kerala: 6%

“The Diary of a Cricketer’s Wife:: Puja Pujara’s Honest Take on Life Beyond the Pitch”



- **Puja Pujara's** newly released memoir, *The Diary of a Cricketer's Wife*, offers a deeply personal perspective on the life shared with Indian cricketer **Cheteshwar Pujara**.
- Pujara was dropped from India's Test squad post the 2023 World Test Championship Final loss to Australia — a turning point that sparked Puja's decision to pen her reflectio

India Takes Over Chairmanship of Asian Productivity Organization for 2025–26



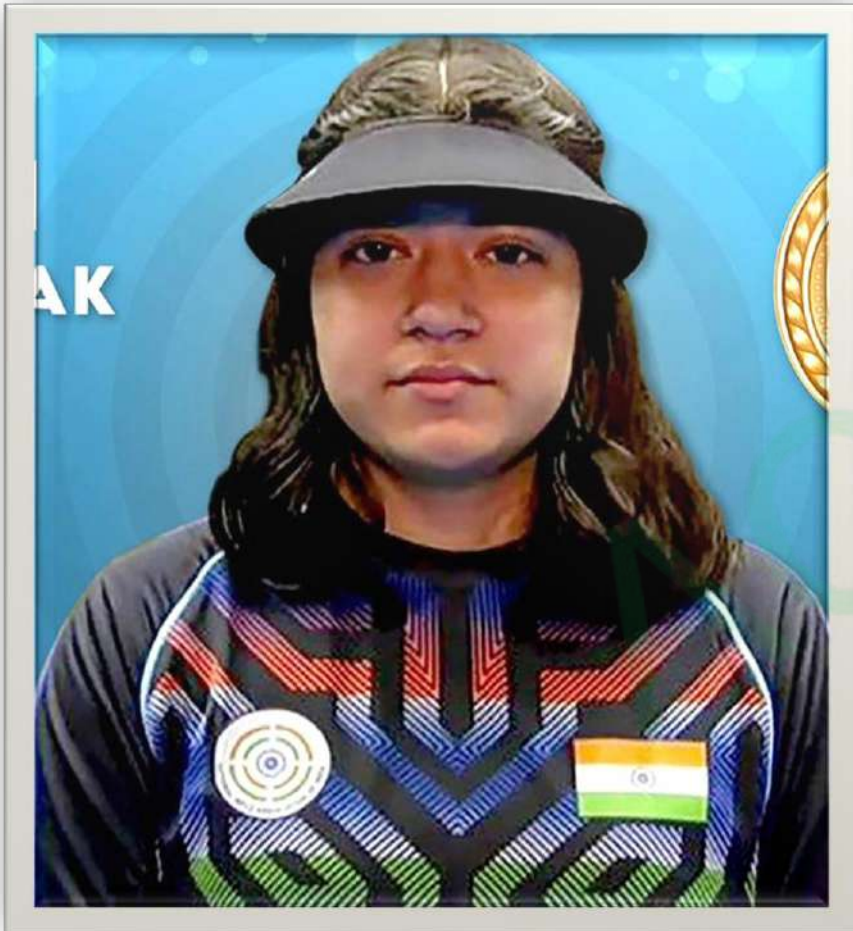
- India has formally assumed the Chairmanship of the **Asian Productivity Organization (APO)** for the 2025–26 term during the ongoing 67th Session of the Governing Body Meeting (GBM) of the APO, being held from 20–22 May 2025 in **Jakarta, Indonesia**.
- The Indian delegation is led by Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), and APO Director for India, **Shri Amardeep Singh Bhatia, IAS**.
- As Chair of the APO, India reiterated its commitment to advancing the APO Vision 2030 and expanding the Green Productivity 2.0 framework

Joe Root Becomes Fastest to 13,000 Test Runs



- England's batter **Joe Root** etched his name in the cricket history by becoming the fastest player to reach **13,000 runs in Test cricket**.
- This remarkable milestone came during England's one-off Test against Zimbabwe
- Joe Root recently achieved the prestigious milestone of 13,000 Test runs in just 153 matches, surpassing the long-standing record held by South African great **Jacques Kallis** (159 matches).

Kanak Budhwar: Gold in 10m Air Pistol at ISSF Junior World Cup



- Seventeen-year-old Indian shooter **Kanak Budhwar** clinched the gold medal in the women's 10-metre air pistol event at the ISSF Junior World Cup 2025 held in **Suhl, Germany**.
- Outperforming Moldova's **Anna Dulce**, the reigning European champion and two-time Olympian
- Last year, Kanak won bronze at the Junior World Championships in the 10m air pistol

Assam Introduces 'Ankita': AI News Anchor in Regional Language



- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma unveiled '**Ankita**', an AI-powered virtual news anchor, who delivered a detailed report on the latest Cabinet meeting
- **A first for the state** and a striking example of how artificial intelligence is reshaping India's media landscape.
- Earlier, Assam had introduced '**Iris**', the first AI teacher at Royal Global School in Guwahati, dressed in traditional Mekhela-Chador.
- "Iris" is the name of India's first AI teacher, a humanoid robot developed by Makerlabs Edutech, and deployed in a **Kerala school**

- The first AI news anchor in India is Lisa, launched by Odisha Television (OTV) in the Odia language.
- She was introduced on July 13, 2023.
- While other AI news anchors like Sana (India Today) and Ankita (Assam government) followed, Lisa was the first regional AI news anchor in India.

PM Modi Chairs 10th NITI Aayog Meet



- Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi** chaired the **10th Governing Council Meeting** of NITI Aayog at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**
- It was attended by Chief Ministers and Lt. Governors representing **24 States and 7 UTs.**
- This year's theme was ***Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat@2047.***
- PM urges States to develop at least one global-standard tourist destination each to attract international visitors and boost local economy
- PM asks NITI Aayog to prepare an '**Investment-friendly Charter**' for attracting investments

- **NITI Aayog was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on 1 January 2015.**
- **The Governing Council of NITI Aayog, comprising Chief Ministers of all the States and Union Territories with legislatures and Lt Governors of other Union Territories, came into effect on 16 February 2015 via a notification by the Cabinet Secretariat.**
- **The Governing Council was reconstituted vide a notification dated 19 February 2021 by the Cabinet Secretariat.**
- **Vice Chairperson : Suman Bery**
- **Chief Executive Officer : BVR Subrahmanyam.**
- **All the State Chief Ministers except West Bengal and Karnataka attended the meeting.**
- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin attended the meeting after boycotting it for the previous three years.**

India's First Vistadome Jungle Safari Train Launched in Uttar Pradesh



- The Indian Railways and the government of **Uttar Pradesh** introduced India's first Vistadome jungle safari train.
- This initiative will connect the **Katar-nia-ghat Wildlife Sanctuary** with the **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve**, offering passengers a chance to experience the state's rich biodiversity.
- This plan is part of the “**One Destination, Three Forests**” theme by the Eco Tourism Board of Uttar Pradesh.
- Designed with state-of-the-art Vistadome coaches, the safari train allows passengers to witness the wild from the comfort of transparent roofs and glass windows—turning every ride into an immersive jungle experience.

Six African Nations Sign MoU to Eliminate Kala-Azar



- In a collaborative move to eliminate kala-azar, **six East African nations- Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan-** signed a joint agreement during a WHO-AU side event at the **78th World Health Assembly in Geneva.**
- The MoU aims to increase investment and cross-border coordination.
- With over 70% of global kala-azar cases reported in this region, the MoU represents a coordinated effort to increase investment, improve surveillance, and promote cross-border cooperation to eliminate the disease.
- **Kala-Azar (Visceral Leishmaniasis)** is a life-threatening disease caused by **Leishmania parasites** transmitted through sandfly bites.

Google Unveils Beam: The Future of 3D Video Communication



- Google has announced the launch of **Google Beam**, an AI-first 3D video communication platform that transforms remote interactions into highly realistic, face-to-face-like experiences.
- Formerly known as **Project Starline**
- This innovation marks a paradigm shift in how people and enterprises connect across distances—without the need for headsets or glasses.
- Google describes Beam as an AI-first video communication platform that enables people to connect, collaborate, and communicate in 3D, with life-sized realism

Kush Maini Creates History with First Indian Win in Formula 2



- Indian racing driver **Kush Maini** achieved a historic feat by winning the Formula 2 Sprint Race at the Monaco Grand Prix
- This feat making him the first Indian to secure victory in an F2 event
- In motorsport, F1 (Formula One) and F2 (Formula 2) are distinct racing series, with F2 often considered a feeder series to F1.

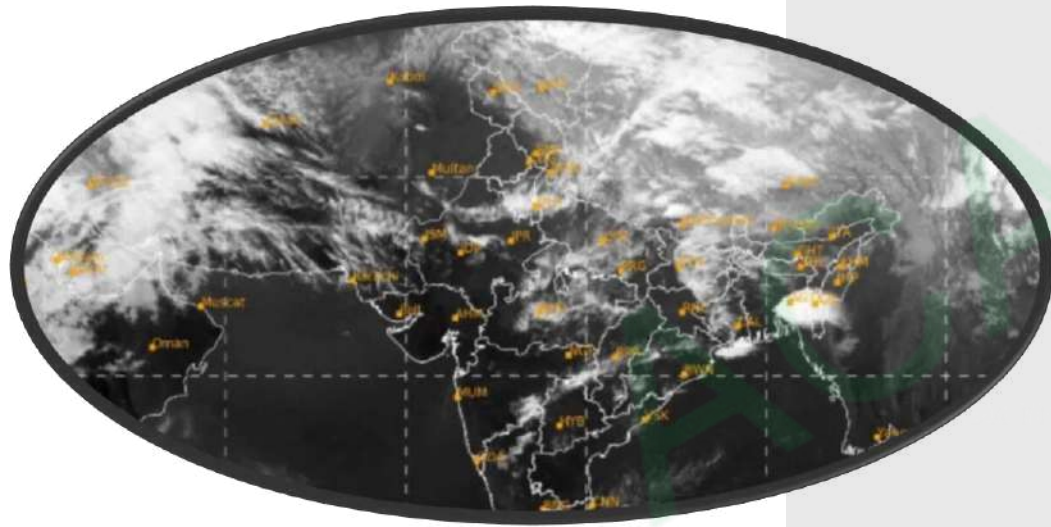
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CURRENT AFFAIRS

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JUNE 3

India Launches World's Highest Resolution Weather Forecast System



- The Government of India unveiled the **Bharat Forecasting System (BFS)**
- Developed by the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune**, and powered by the high-speed **supercomputer Arka**
- BFS aims to deliver the most accurate and localised weather forecasts in the world with an unprecedented 6 km x 6 km grid resolution
- It was officially launched on May 26, 2025, by Union Earth Sciences Minister **Dr. Jitendra Singh**
- **Speed: 11.77 petaflops**
- **Storage: 33 petabytes**

LIC Creates History with Guinness World Record in Insurance Sales



- State-owned insurance giant **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has bagged a Guinness World Record title for **selling the highest number of life insurance policies in 24 hours**.
- The company sold **588,107 life insurance policies** across India on that day.
- The milestone was achieved on **January 20, 2025**, when LIC agents collectively issued over 5.8 lakh policies.
- LIC is a state-owned life insurance corporation, established in **1956**.
- LIC's CEO and MD: **Siddhartha Mohanty**

India Participates in 9th BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting in Brasília



- India participated in the 9th BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting held under the Chair ship of **Brazil** on 21st May 2025
- The overarching theme of the meeting was “***Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance***”.
- The meeting witnessed the presence of Industry Ministers and representatives from all BRICS member countries including **Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa**, as well as newly inducted members **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.**

Miao Lijie Named Ambassador for FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025



- Chinese basketball legend **Miao Lijie** has been named the ambassador of the FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025, scheduled to be held in **Shenzhen, China**, from July 13 to 20.
- **She is former captain** and top scorer for China's national women's basketball team.
- **FIBA Hall of Fame inductee (2024)**- the third Chinese player to achieve this honor.
- **Played in 3 Olympics** (2004, 2008, 2012) and **3 FIBA World Cups**.
- First player to score 6,000 points in the WCBA (China's professional league).

Arsenal win Women's Champions League in final

- **Arsenal** stunned defending champions FC Barcelona 1-0 to clinch their second UEFA Women's Champions League (UWCL) title.
- This victory marked a monumental achievement for Arsenal, breaking Barcelona's dream of securing a third consecutive title.
- It is the first time in 18 years that an English women's football club has lifted the prestigious trophy.
- Arsenal won the Women's Champions League for the **first time since 2007.**



India's Coastline Grows by 3500 km After Precise Mapping



- The Government of India has revised the length of its coastline from **7,516.6 km to 11,098.8 km**-a nearly 50% increase, without gaining any new land.
- This revision, announced in the **Ministry of Home Affairs' 2023–2024 annual** report, stems not from any territorial expansion but from enhanced mapping technologies that now allow for far more accurate measurement of coastal features
- The previous measurement used low-resolution data (scale 1:4,500,000), which missed fine land features
- Measured by: **Survey of India and the National Hydrographic Office (NHO)**

India Unveils Its Most Powerful Single-Unit Electric Locomotive



- The 9000 horsepower electric locomotive, flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in **Dahod, Gujarat**, is the **most powerful single-unit electric engine ever developed for Indian Railways**
- Until now, freight locomotives have typically operated at 4500 or 6000 HP capacities.
- While 12,000 HP engines do exist, they are created by coupling two 6000 HP units
- Developed under the “**Make in India**” initiative in collaboration with Siemens India

India Post Launches 'Know Your DIGIPIN' and 'Know Your PIN Code' to Modernise Address Infrastructure



- The Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, launched two innovative web platforms '**Know Your DIGIPIN**' and '**Know Your PIN Code**'
- These tools, aligned with the **National Geospatial Policy 2022**, aim to improve location precision, enhance last-mile delivery, and enable efficient public service delivery by modernising India's addressing systems.
- Know Your DIGIPIN Web Application is developed by the Department of Posts in collaboration with **IIT Hyderabad and NRSC-ISRO**.
- Know Your PIN Code Web Application Improves India's traditional 6-digit PIN Code system introduced in 1972.

Kami Rita Sherpa Scales Mount Everest for 31st Time



- Nepali Sherpa guide **Kami Rita** scaled Mount Everest for the 31st time, breaking the record he set last year.
- The 55-year-old reached the **8,849-metre (29,032 foot)** peak - the highest in the world - by the traditional southeast ridge route
- Kami Rita first climbed Everest in **1994** and has done so every year except for three years when authorities closed the mountain to climbers for various reasons.
- More than 8,000 people have climbed Mount Everest since it was first scaled by New Zealander **Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay** in 1953.

Anil Kumble Appointed Karnataka Forest Department Ambassador



- Karnataka government has appointed former Indian cricket team captain **Anil Kumble** as the ambassador of the State Forest Department and for wildlife conservation.
- Known not only for his achievements in cricket but also for his past involvement in conservation efforts, Kumble's appointment is expected to boost public engagement in preserving the state's rich biodiversity
- Served previously as Vice-Chairman of the Karnataka Wildlife Board.

INS Tarini Completes World Voyage



- Two women officers of the Indian Navy dropped anchor at Goa's Mormugao Port, completing a double-handed circumnavigation of the world in just a little over eight months.
- Lieutenant Commander **Roopa A** and Lieutenant Commander **Dilna K**, have successfully completed a double-handed circumnavigation of the globe aboard **INS Tarini** under the mission **Navika Sagar Parikrama II**.
- The expedition promotes **Nari Shakti, maritime diplomacy, and the spirit of exploration and endurance.**

Lando Norris Clinches Thrilling Victory at 2025 Monaco Grand Prix



- British Formula 1 driver **Lando Norris** claimed an impressive victory at the 2025 Monaco Grand Prix
- Monaco GP is one of the oldest and most prestigious races in F1, dating back to 1929.
- 2nd Place: **Charles Leclerc (Ferrari)**

India to Develop Indigenous Electric Trainer Aircraft E-Hansa



- In a significant step towards green aviation and indigenous technological innovation, India has launched the development of the **Electric Hansa (E-HANSA)**- a next-generation, two-seater electric trainer aircraft.
- This indigenously developed E-Hansa aircraft is roughly half the price of imported trainer aircraft.
- This initiative was revealed by **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology
- The E-HANSA aligns with **India's green aviation vision**, seeking to reduce carbon emissions in aviation and transition towards clean energy usage in aircraft systems
- The Electric Hansa (E-HANSA) trainer aircraft, developed by CSIR-NAL

Aizawl Becomes 4th Northeast Capital Linked to National Railway

Network



- Mizoram's capital **Aizawl** has been linked to the national railway network through the new **Bairabi–Sairang line**, marking a major boost in North-East connectivity.
- Mizoram now becomes the fourth North-East state with capital city rail connectivity after **Assam, Tripura, and Arunachal Pradesh**.
 - Assam (Dispur), Tripura (Agartala), and Arunachal Pradesh (Itanagar).
- This project is part of the Ministry of Railways' larger mission to connect all North-East capitals.

DRDO Chief, Dr. Samir Kamat's Tenure Extended Again by 1 Year



- The Central Government has given a one-year extension to **Dr. Samir V Kamat**, the Chief of DRDO.
- He will now stay in the post till **May 2026**.
- This is his second extension.
- He became the Chairman of DRDO and Secretary of the Department of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D) on August 25, 2022.
- DRDO Formed: **1958**
- Headquarters: **DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi, India**

Cabinet Approves Hike in MSP for 14 Kharif Crops for 2025–26



- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for **14 Kharif Crops** for Marketing Season 2025-26.
- Government has increased the MSP of Kharif Crops for Marketing Season 2025-26, to **ensure remunerative prices** to the growers for their produce.
- The highest absolute increase in MSP over the previous year has been recommended for **nigerseed** (Rs.820 per quintal) followed by **Ragi** (Rs.596 per quintal), **Cotton** (Rs.589 per quintal) and **Sesamum** (Rs.579 per quintal).

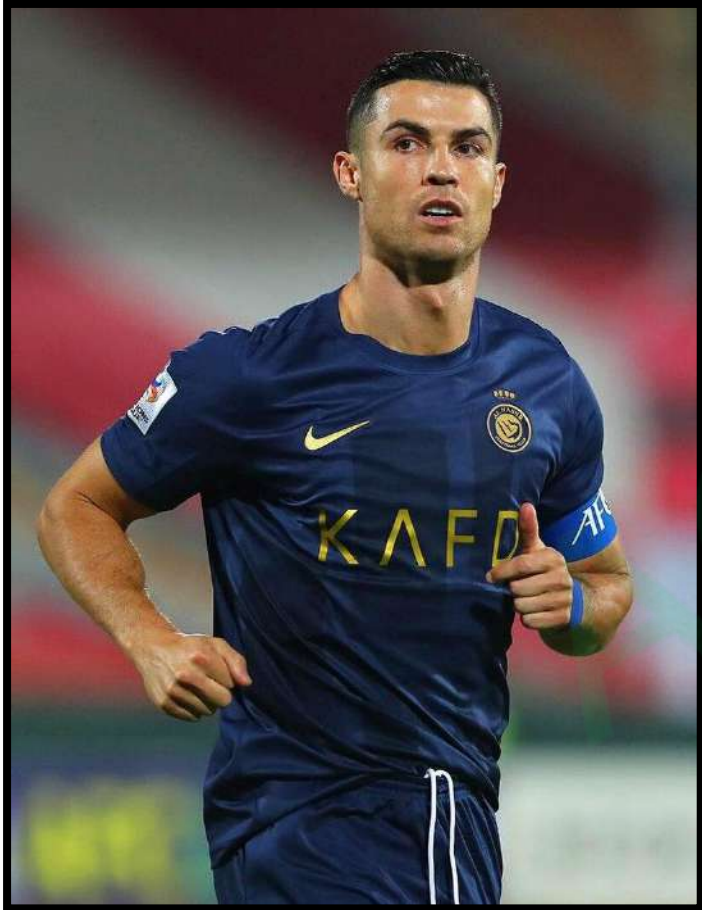
Raja Kumari Makes History As First Indian-Origin Singer To Win At AMAs

2025



- Indian-American rapper and singer-songwriter **Raja Kumari** has made history by becoming the first Indian-origin musician to win an **American Music Award (AMA)**.
- The accolade was awarded during the **51st AMA ceremony held in Los Angeles**, recognizing her contribution to the '**Arcane League of Legends: Season 2**' soundtrack.
- The award was given in the "Favorite Soundtrack" category,

Cristiano Ronaldo Breaks Barriers with 800 Goals in Club Football



- **Cristiano Ronaldo** has scored his **800th club goal** in a Saudi Pro League match for Al-Nassr against Al-Fateh
- Ronaldo now has 934 total career goals (including national team goals).
- Cristiano Ronaldo is a **Portuguese** professional footballer
- Nicknamed **CR7**
- He has made over **1,200 professional career appearances**, the most by an outfield player,

Mahendra Gurjar Sets World Record in World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Switzerland



- India's **Mahendra Gurjar** made the country proud by setting a world record in the **men's javelin F42 category** at the Nottwil World Para Athletics Grand Prix in **Switzerland**
- He set a new world record in the men's javelin F42 category with a throw of **61.17 meters**, surpassing the previous record of 59.19m.
- He broke the previous world record of 59.19m, which was set by Brazil's **Roberto Floriani Edenilson** in 2022.
- The F24 category is for athletes who have moderate movement problems in one leg

16-Year-Old Vishwanath Karthikey Becomes Youngest Indian to Conquer

7 Summits



- Hyderabad teenager **Vishwanath Karthikey Padakanti** has become the youngest Indian and the second youngest person in the world to complete the legendary **7 Summits challenge** - scaling the highest peak on each continent, a feat that ranks among the most prestigious in global mountaineering
- Vishwanath completed his final climb when he reached the top of **Mount Everest**, which is 8,848 meters high
- Before Everest, he had successfully climbed peaks such as **Aconcagua (South America)**, **Denali (North America)**, **Kilimanjaro (Africa)**, **Elbrus (Europe)**, **Vinson (Antarctica)**, and **Kosciuszko (Australia)**.

Odisha Launches ANKUR: A Strategic Urban Transformation Initiative



- The Odisha government has launched **ANKUR (Atal Network for Knowledge, Urbanisation and Reforms)** to promote resilient, smart, and inclusive urban development.
- The formal launch of ANKUR was marked by the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between the Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD) and six prominent organizations in the urban development ecosystem.
- Among these was the **United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)**, which joins the initiative as a key knowledge partner.
- Anchored by strategic partnerships and innovation, the initiative aims to shape future-ready cities aligned with **Viksit Bharat @2047**
- Department: **Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) Department**

India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT 2025



- The 17th edition of the **India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise Nomadic Elephant** is scheduled to be held in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**.
- It is a bilateral annual military exercise held alternately in India and Mongolia since **2006**.
- The last edition was held in **Umroi, Meghalaya (July 2024)**.
- The Indian Army contingent, comprising 45 personnel predominantly from a battalion of the **ARUNACHAL SCOUTS**
- India also actively takes part in **Exercise Khaan Quest**, a multinational peacekeeping exercise organized by Mongolia.

Miniratna Status Granted to MIL, AVNL & IOL



- The Ministry of Defence has approved the conferment of “**Miniratna (Category-I)**” status to three key Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs):
 - **Munitions India Limited (MIL), Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL), and India Optel Limited (IOL).**
- Raksha Mantri **Rajnath Singh** grants Miniratna Category-I status
- The CPSEs which have made profit in the last three years continuously, pre-tax profit is **Rs.30 crores or more** in **at least one of the three years** and have a positive net worth are eligible to be considered for grant of Miniratna-I status.

Sadhguru Conferred with 'Global Indian of the Year' Award by Canada

India Foundation



- **Sadhguru** was awarded the "**Global Indian of the Year**" award by the **Canada India Foundation (CIF)** in Toronto.
- The award recognizes his contributions to raising human consciousness and promoting environmental sustainability through initiatives like the Conscious Planet movement.
- Along with the award, Sadhguru also received a cash prize of **CAD 50,000**.
- He dedicated this amount to the '**Cauvery Calling**' project, which aims to bring life back to the Cauvery River by planting more trees and supporting farmers in the river basin.

Ahmedabad to Host Asian Weightlifting Championships from April 1 to 10



- The **Asian Weightlifting Championships 2026** will be held in the Indian city of **Ahmedabad** from April 1 to 10.
- The **Asian Weightlifting Federation (AWF)**, the governing body of the sport in the continent, officially announced the venue and dates
- **Gandhinagar**, another city in Gujarat, was decided as the venue originally at the 2024 AWF Congress held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- However, it has been shifted to Ahmedabad.
- This marks only the second time that India will host the continental championships since its inception in **1957**.
- The first was in **New Delhi**, held in conjunction with the 1982 Asian Games.

India to Host IATA Annual General Meeting 2025 in New Delhi After 42 Years



- The **International Air Transport Association (IATA)** is set to host its Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2025 and the **World Air Transport Summit (WATS)** in **New Delhi** from June 1 to 3, bringing together the global aviation industry under one roof.
- **IndiGo**, India's largest airline, is the host carrier for the meeting
- This marks a historic moment as India hosts the prestigious event for the first time in 42 years, with the last meeting having taken place in the country in **1983**.

Serena Williams Honoured with Princess of Asturias Award for Sports

2025



- Tennis legend **Serena Williams** has been named the **2025 Princess of Asturias Prize for Sports winner**
- The awards are among Spain's most prestigious honours and recognise excellence in many fields, including sports, the arts, literature and more
- A **four-time Olympic gold medallist**, Williams ended her career with 23 Grand Slam titles and 73 overall singles titles.
- Serena Williams first captured the world's attention in **1999**, when at just 17 years old, she won her first Grand Slam singles title at the U.S. Open.
- The oldest woman to win a **Grand Slam** singles title

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

2025

JUNE 4

President of India Confers National Florence Nightingale Awards 2025

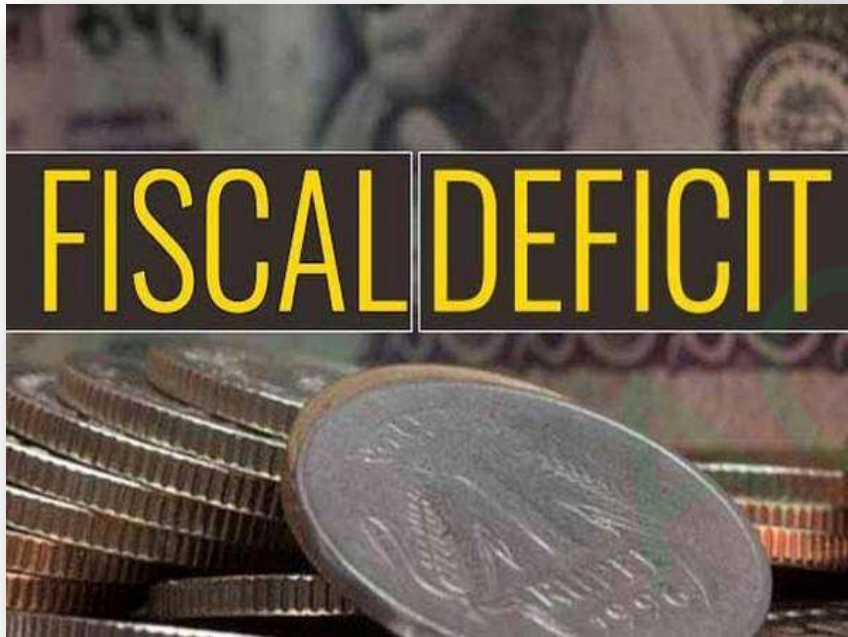


- **President Droupadi Murmu** confers the **National Florence Nightingale Awards 2025** to **15 outstanding nurses** for their service to public health.
- These awards, which recognize the unwavering dedication, compassion, and service of nurses, are among the highest national honours for the nursing and midwifery profession in India.
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, **Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda** and Union Ministers of State for Health & Family Welfare, **Shri Prataprao Jadhav** and **Smt. Anupriya Patel** graced the occasion.

1	ANM	Smt. Reba Rani Sarkar	Andaman and Nicobar
2	ANM	Smt. Valiveti Subhavathi	Andhra Pradesh
3	ANM	Smt. Saroj Fakirbhai Patel	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu
4	ANM	Smt. Raziya Beegum P B	Lakshadweep
5	ANM	Smt. Sujata Ashok Bagul	Maharashtra
6	LHV	Smt. Bina Pani Deka	Assam
7	Nurse	Smt. Kijum Sora Karga	Arunachal Pradesh
8	Nurse	Miss Dimple Arora	Delhi

9	Nurse	Maj Gen Sheena P D	Delhi
10	Nurse	Dr. Banu M R	Karnataka
11	Nurse	Smt. Leimapokpam Ranjita Devi	Manipur
12	Nurse	Smt. V Lalmangaihi	Mizoram
13	Nurse	Smt. L S Manimozhi	Puducherry
14	Nurse	Smt. Alamelu Mangayarkarasi K	Tamil Nadu
15	Nurse	Smt. Doli Biswas	West Bengal

India Achieves Fiscal Deficit Target of 4.8% for FY25



- **Fiscal Deficit** is the difference between the government's total expenditure and its total receipt (excluding borrowings) in a given fiscal year.
- Fiscal Deficit= **Total Expenditure- Total Receipts (excluding borrowings)**.
- The Government of India has successfully met its fiscal deficit target of **4.8% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** for the financial year 2024–25, as revealed in the provisional data released by the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**.
- In 2024–25, the Government of India recorded a fiscal deficit of **₹15.77 lakh crore**, which amounted to 4.8% of the GDP, in line with its revised estimates.

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had committed to lowering the fiscal deficit further to 4.4% of GDP in the current fiscal year 2025–26, aligning with the fiscal consolidation glide path.
- The Centre's total revenue in 2024–25, including tax, non-tax, and capital receipts, was ₹30.78 lakh crore, which is 97.8% of the revised budget estimates (RE).
- On the expenditure side, the government spent a total of ₹46.55 lakh crore in FY25—again, 97.8% of the RE.
- The government earned only ₹17,202 crore as miscellaneous capital receipts, just 52.1% of the revised projection.
 - This category includes disinvestment proceeds, and data from DIPAM (Department of Investment and Public Asset Management) revealed that only ₹10,131.32 crore was raised through disinvestment in FY25

Tiger corridor of Kawal notified as Kumram Bheem Conservation Reserve



- Taking a vital step towards conservation and wildlife protection, Telangana has officially designated a key inter-state tiger corridor as the **Kumram Bheem Conservation Reserve**, offering legal protection to an ecologically rich area that plays a crucial role in tiger movement across central India.
- This reserve serves as a **vital corridor connecting various tiger reserves** and sanctuaries across multiple states in India.
- This conservation reserve is a crucial link in maintaining tiger connectivity across central India, connecting the **Kawal Tiger Reserve in Telangana** with the **Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra**, as well as other sanctuaries like **Kanhargaon, Tipeswar, Chaprala, and Indravati**.

Annalena Baerbock Elected President of 80th UN General Assembly

Session



- Former German Foreign Minister **Annalena Baerbock** was elected as the **President of the 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**.
- Her election marks a significant moment in UN history as she becomes the first woman from the Western European group to assume the post and the fifth woman overall to lead the UNGA.
- **Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit** served as the 8th President of the United Nations General Assembly from 1953 to 1954, the first woman and the only Indian to have been appointed to this post
- President of the 79th UN General Assembly: **Philémon Yang**

Germany Becomes the World's Top Creditor, Overtaking Japan After 34 Years



- **Germany** became the world's largest net creditor, surpassing Japan for the first time since **1990**.
- Despite Japan reaching record-high net external assets, Germany outpaced it in growth and valuation.
- A creditor nation is a country that lends more money to the world than it borrows.
- Japan had a record net asset value of ¥533 trillion (\$3.7 trillion), but Germany posted ¥569 trillion (\$3.9 trillion).

Lavender Festival 2025 Concludes in Bhaderwah



- Union Minister of Science & Technology **Dr. Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the 2-day Lavender Festival 2025 in Bhaderwah, Jammu & Kashmir
- It was the 3rd edition of Lavender Festival
- It was organized by **CSIR–IIIM Jammu**, highlighting Bhaderwah's transformation into a national hub for agri-business innovation.
- The festival promotes aromatic farming and is part of the **Purple Revolution** under the Aroma Mission, aimed at boosting farmers' income through high-value crops like lavender.
- Bhaderwah is now known as the **Lavender Capital of India**.

Lee Jae-myung Elected President of South Korea

- Liberal Democratic Party leader **Lee Jae-myung** was sworn in as the 21st President of South Korea
- He will serve a **five-year term**.
- Lee survived an assassination attempt in January 2024
- He replaces **Yoon Suk Yeol**



Karol Nawrocki Elected President of Poland



- **Karol Nawrocki**, a former boxer, has been elected as the next President of Poland, securing 50.89% of the vote in a tightly contested election against **Rafał Trzaskowski**.
- Backed by former U.S. President Donald Trump, Nawrocki is expected to steer Poland towards a more nationalist and traditionalist policy path.
- He will succeed **Andrzej Duda**, whose term ends on August 6, 2025.

Kumar Mangalam Birla Honoured with USISPF Global Leadership Award

2025



- Chairman of the Aditya Birla Group, **Kumar Mangalam Birla**, has been conferred with the Global Leadership Award by the **U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)** at its 8th annual Leadership Summit held in Washington, D.C.
- Recognised for his leadership and commitment to strengthening U.S.-India economic ties
- Other Honourees
 - **Arvind Krishna**- Chairman, CEO, and President, IBM (India-origin tech leader)
 - **Toshi-aki Higa-shihara**- Executive Chairman, Hitachi (Japan-based conglomerate)

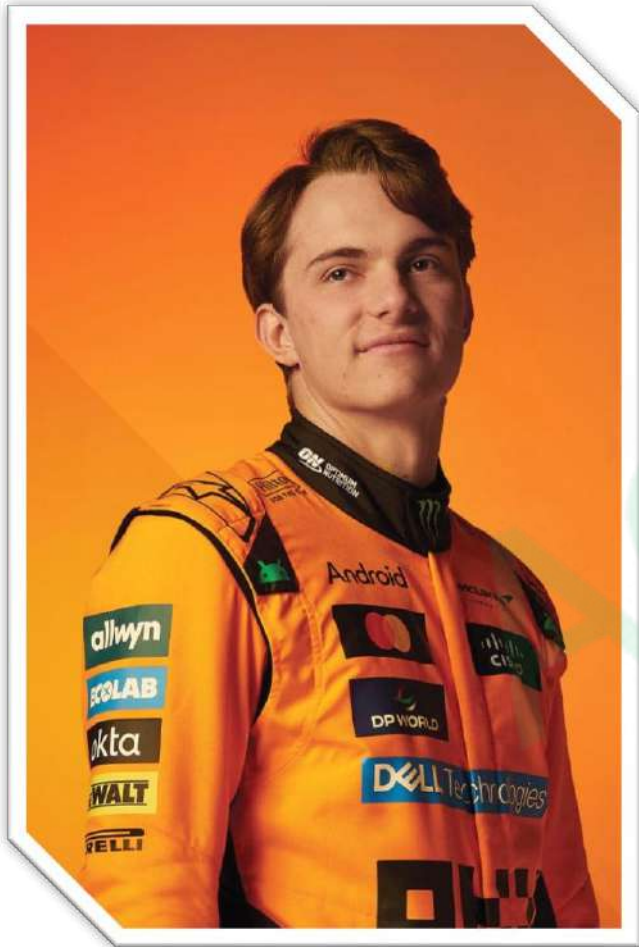
G7 Summit 2025



- In 2025, G7 partners are marking **50 years of partnership and cooperation**.
- This year's G-7 Outreach Summit, being hosted by Canada, is themed around three core pillars of “*protecting our communities around the world*”, “*building energy security and accelerating the digital transition*” and “*securing the partnerships of the future*”.
- Indian Prime Minister attended the 51st G7 Summit at **Kananaskis, Canada**.
- Though India is not a part of the G7 grouping, it has been invited for the global summit **each year for the last 6 years** and **12 in total** as an outreach country.
- The **President of the European Commission** was invited to attend the G7 Summit for the first time.

- The G7 (Group of Seven) is an informal forum of the world's most advanced economies — **France, Germany, Italy, the UK, Japan, the US, and Canada.**
- The G7 was formed in **1975** as the G6 (US, UK, France, West Germany, Japan, Italy) in response to the 1973 oil crisis and financial turmoil, with Canada joining in 1976 to make it G7.
- The year 2025 marked the **50th anniversary of the G7.**
- It became **G8 in 1997** with the inclusion of Russia, but reverted to G7 in 2014 after Russia's expulsion over the annexation of Crimea.
- 52nd G7 Summit- 14–16 June 2026- **France**

Oscar Piastri Claims Victory at Spanish Grand Prix 2025



- **Australian F1 star Oscar Piastri** claimed his fifth victory of the 2025 season by winning the Spanish Grand Prix in Barcelona
- Piastri has won seven Formula One Grands Prix across three seasons.
- Piastri is the only driver in history to win **Formula Renault, Formula Three, and Formula Two-or equivalent**-championships in successive seasons.

IPL 2025



- The 2025 Indian Premier League, also known as IPL 18 and branded as **TATA IPL 2025**, was the 18th edition of the Indian Premier League
- In the final, Royal Challengers Bengaluru defeated Punjab Kings by 6 runs to win their maiden title after 18 years.
- Final Venue: **Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad**
- **Sai Sudharsan(Orange Cap)** and **Prasidh Krishna(Purple Cap)** of Gujarat Titans scored the most runs (759) and took the most wickets (25) respectively.
- **Suryakumar Yadav** of Mumbai Indians was awarded as the most valuable player of the tournament.

- The team RCB was led by captain **Rajat Patidar**
- The Indian Premier League (IPL) is a professional Twenty20 (T20) cricket league held in India, organized by the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)**.
- It is held annually since the first edition in **2008**
- Most successful: **Chennai Super Kings, Mumbai Indians(5 titles each)**
- A women's edition of the Indian Premier League, known as the Women's Premier League, was established in 2022, and had it's first season in 2023
 - 2025 Winner: **Mumbai Indians**

India to Build First-Ever Polar Research Vessel (PRV) in Collaboration with Norway



- India's **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE)** and Norway's **Kongsberg Oslo** signed an MoU which paves the way for India to build its first ever Polar Research Vessel (PRV) indigenously.
- The MoU was signed in presence of Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, **Sarbananda Sonowal** in Oslo, Norway.
- The vessel will be equipped with the latest scientific equipment, enable researchers to explore the oceans' depths, study marine ecosystems, and unlock new insights into our planet's past, present, and future.
- Mr. Sonowal participated in **ministerial's discussion on shipping and ocean business** and reaffirmed **India's vision of MAHASAGAR** ensuring Growth for All.

World Environment Day 2025



- World Environment Day (WED) is a global observance, celebrated annually on **June 5th**, to raise awareness and encourage action for the protection of our environment.
- World Environment Day (WED) 2025 is being celebrated on 5th June 2025, with **South Korea (Republic of Korea)** serving as the global host.
 - This was the Republic of Korea's second time to host global observations for World Environment Day
- Theme for World Environment Day 2025: “**Beat Plastic Pollution**”
- India’s Prime Minister will plant a **Banyan sapling** under the **Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam** initiative as part of the ‘**Aravalli Green Wall project**’.

- Global Goal: **End Plastic Pollution by 2040**
- WED was established by the United Nations General Assembly in **1972**, coinciding with the opening day of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment- the first major global summit focused on environmental issues.
- The event has been led by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, since its inception in 1973.
- The UNEP was established in the same year
- The first World Environment Day was celebrated in 1973 with the theme **“Only One Earth”**.

Ashwani Lohani Appointed Director of Prime Ministers Museum and Library



- Former Air India chief **Ashwani Lohani**, an Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineering (IRSME) officer of the 1980 batch, has been appointed as the director of the Prime Ministers Museum and Library (PMML) in New Delhi
- He replaces former power secretary **Sanjiv Nandan Sahai**
- In the interim, **Lily Pandeya**, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, was officiating in the role.
- **Prime Ministers Museum and Library (PMML)** is an institution under the Ministry of Culture, it preserves the legacy of India's Prime Ministers and hosts exhibitions, documents, and digital archives.

India Finishes Second at Asian Athletics Championships 2025



- India finished **second** at the **26th Asian Athletics Championships 2025**, held in **Gumi, South Korea**, with a total of **24 medals: 8 gold, 10 silver, and 6 bronze**.
- **China** topped the medal tally with 32 medals.
- **Servin Sebastian** won the first medal for India by bagging a bronze in the men's 20km race walk event
- **Gulveer Singh** won the first gold medal for India in the men's 10000m, he also won the gold medal in the men's 5000m.
- India's best ever showing at the Asian Athletics Championships to date came at the **2017 edition** held in **Bhubaneswar** which yielded **27 medals - nine golds, six silver and 12 bronze**.

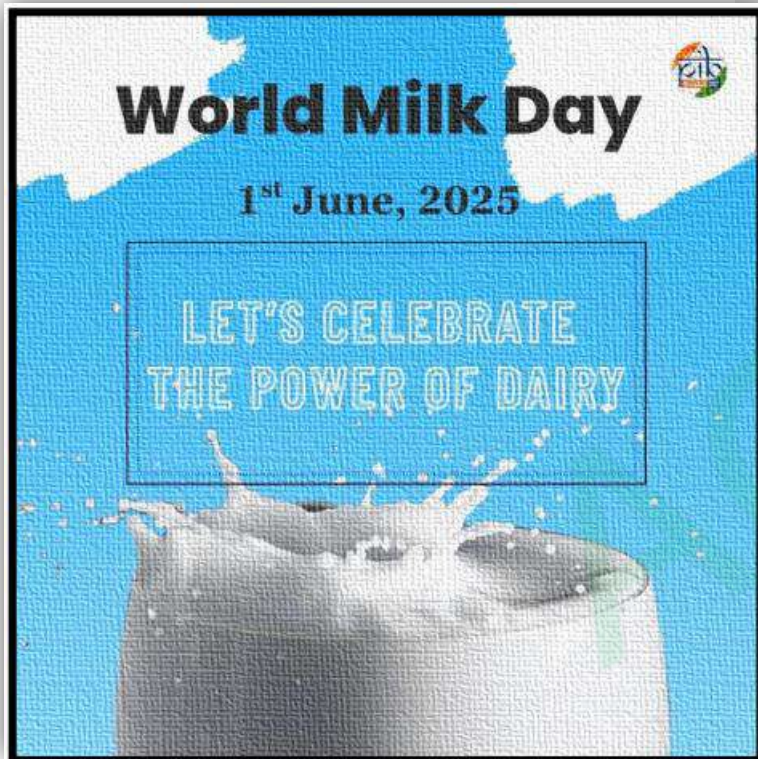
**ALWAYS
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CURRENT AFFAIRS

2025

JUNE 5

World Milk Day 2025



- World Milk Day is celebrated on **1st June** to highlight the nutritional, economic, and environmental significance of milk, as well as the role of the dairy industry in the economy.
- Established by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** in **2001**
- This year, the theme for World Milk Day 2025 is: “***Let’s Celebrate the Power of Dairy.***”
- Globally, milk production is growing steadily at a rate of 2% per year, but India stands out with a remarkable annual growth rate of 5.7%, proudly holding the title of the world’s largest milk producer.

- In India, National Milk Day (NMD) is celebrated on **26th November** to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien.
- **Dr. Verghese Kurien**, known as the **Father of the White Revolution or Operation Flood**, transformed India from a dairy-deficient nation into the world's top milk producer.
- India has been the world's top milk producer since **1998**
- Now producing 25% of global milk. Between 2014-15 and **2023-24, milk production** rose 63.56%, from 146.3 million tonnes to **239.2 million tonnes**.
- Top Milk-Producing States As per the Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics (BAHS) 2024, top 5 Milk producing States are **Uttar Pradesh (16.21%), Rajasthan (14.51%), Madhya Pradesh (8.91%), Gujarat (7.65%), Maharashtra (6.71%)**.
- Dairy is India's **largest agricultural commodity**
 - Contributes **5% to GDP**

- A major turning point came in **1965 when the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) was created.**
- Dr. Verghese Kurien, known as the Father of the White Revolution, was appointed to lead it.
- This laid the foundation for **Operation Flood (1970–1996)**, one of the world's largest rural development programs
- India now produces **25 percent of the world's milk.**

Khichan and Menar Wetlands Get Ramsar Tag



- Two wetlands from Rajasthan- **Khichan in Phalodi** and **Menar in Udaipur** have been added to the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance, taking India's total tally to **91 Ramsar Sites**.
- The announcement, made on the eve of **World Environment Day 2025**,
- India has added Khichan and Menar wetlands to the Ramsar List on June 4, 2025, just before World Environment Day
- Menar Referred to as the “**bird village**” due to its thriving avian population.
- A Ramsar Site is a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, an intergovernmental treaty signed in **1971 in Ramsar, Iran**.

India to Conduct Population Census 2027 in Two Phases with Caste Enumeration



- The Government has decided to conduct the Population Census – 2027 in **two phases**, along with the enumeration of castes.
 - The first phase will be conducted in **hilly and snow-hit areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Ladakh** beginning 1st of October, 2026.
 - The second phase covering **other parts of the country** will be held from 1st of March 2027.
- The upcoming exercise will be **India's first fully digital census**
- For the first time since Independence, the census will include **caste-based data collection**

- The last census was conducted in 2011 in two phases.
- These were Phase I for House Listing and Phase II for Population Enumeration.
- Census 2021 was also proposed to be conducted in two phases with phase I during April-September 2020 and second phase in February 2021.
- All the preparations for the first phase of the Census to be conducted in 2021 were completed. However, the census work was postponed due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic across the country.
- The Indian Census is one of the largest administrative and statistical exercise in the world.
- **The Census of India is conducted under the provisions of the Census Act, 1948 and the Census Rules, 1990.**

India Secures Presidency of IIAS for 2025–2028 Term



- For 2025-2028 Presidency of IIAS, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi nominated the Indian candidacy of Secretary DARPG **Shri V.Srinivas** in November 2024
- This is first time in the 100 years history of IIAS that the **election to the post of President was held by ballot process** and it is the **first time that India has secured the historic mandate for the Presidency of the IIAS.**
- This victory marks a significant achievement for India, as the IIAS presidency will allow the country to further its vision of "**Maximum Governance – Minimum Government**" in the realm of public administration.

- On June 3, 2025, India won the presidency of IIAS after defeating **Austria** in the final round of voting
- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances represents India as a Member State of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences since **1998**.
- The International Institute of Administrative Sciences is a Federation of **31 Member Countries**, 20 National Sections and 15 Academic Research Centres jointly collaborating for scientific research on public administration.
- Established: **1930**
- Headquarters: **Brussels, Belgium**
- Key member countries include - **India, Japan, China, Germany, Italy, Korea, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Switzerland, Mexico, Spain, Qatar, Morocco, Indonesia** etc.

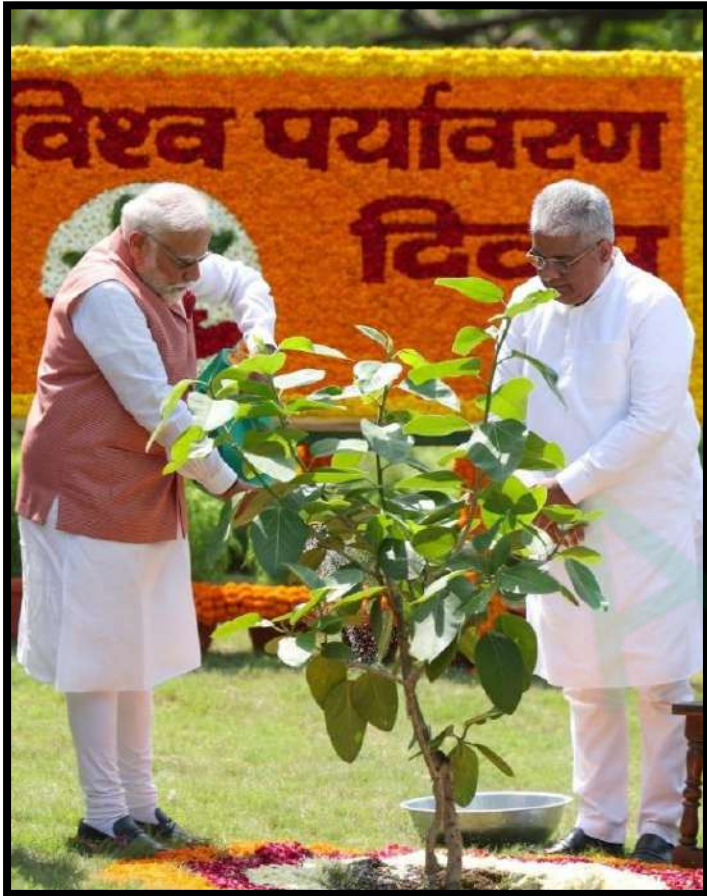
Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana Launched to Boost Green Cover in Himachal



- Himachal state government launched the '**Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana**' from Hamirpur to boost environmental conservation and public participation in forest management.
- This scheme aims to increase green cover by planting fruit-bearing trees on barren forest lands and create jobs for local people.
- The '**Green Adoption Scheme**' was also launched, where companies like Ambuja, Adani Foundation, and Ultra-Tech will undertake plantations under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- '**Van Mitras**' were appointed to support forest protection and raise awareness, with many women among the recruits.

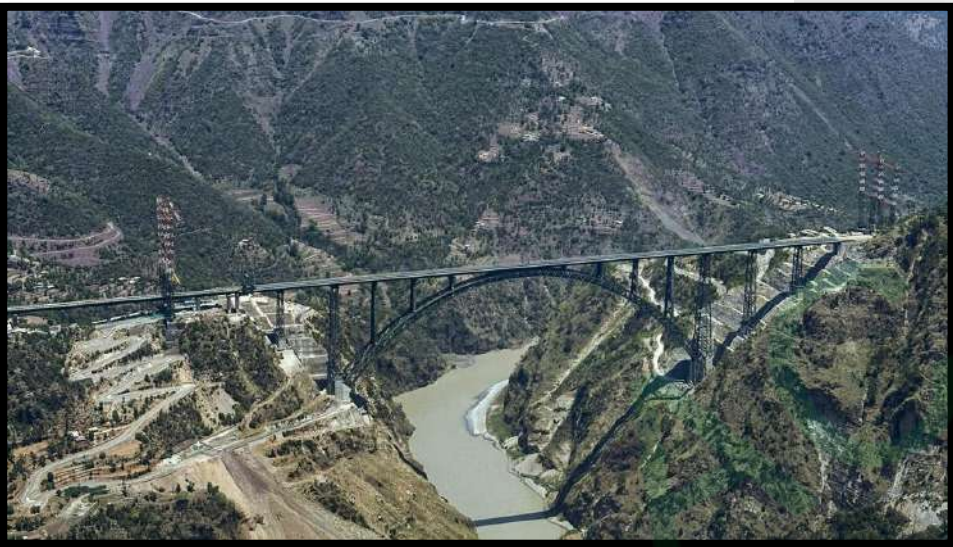
PM Modi Launches 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0' on World Environment

Day



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked World Environment Day by planting a sapling at Mahavir Jayanti Park in the national capital, as part of the second phase of the '**Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam**' initiative.
- The campaign, which encourages individuals to plant a tree in honour of their mothers, aims to promote environmental consciousness through personal and symbolic action.
- The expanded initiative aims to **plant 10 crore trees across India by September 30, 2025**, combining environmental sustainability with emotional and cultural values.
- The PM also flagged off 200 electric buses in Delhi to promote clean urban transport.

PM Inaugurates World's Highest Railway Arch Bridge



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Chenab Bridge**, the world's highest railway arch bridge, during his visit to **Jammu and Kashmir**
- Soaring **359 metres above the Chenab River**, (Taller than the Eiffel Tower) the **1,315-metre-long steel arch bridge** is built to withstand high seismic and wind loads.
- It will reduce travel time between **Jammu and Srinagar** by two to three hours.
- PM Modi also inaugurated the **Anji Bridge**, India's first cable-stayed railway bridge, constructed in one of the most challenging terrains in the region.

- A major highlight of the visit is the dedication of the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL)** to the nation.
- A 42-year-old project aimed at integrating the Kashmir Valley with the national railway network
- Spanning 272 km and built at a cost of approximately **₹43,780 crore**, the project includes 36 tunnels totaling 119 km and 943 bridges, ensuring all-weather rail connectivity to the Kashmir Valley.

UN Elects Five Non-Permanent Members to Security Council for 2026-27

Term



- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has elected **Bahrain, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Latvia, and Liberia** as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for a **2-year term starting 1st January 2026**.
- These countries will join the **15-member Council**, which plays a central role in maintaining international peace and security.
- **Latvia** will be serving on the UNSC for the first time, marking a significant diplomatic milestone.
- They will join **Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama, Somalia** (elected in 2024, serving through 2026).

- The **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**, established in **1945** under the UN Charter, constitutes one of the UN's six principal organs, entrusted with the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security.
- The Council comprises **15 members**, including **5 permanent members**-
 - **China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States**—who possess veto power, and
 - **10 non-permanent members** elected for 2-year terms by the UN General Assembly (UNGA).
- These non-permanent seats are allocated on a regional basis: **5 for African and Asian States, 1 for Eastern European States, 2 for Latin American and Caribbean States, and 2 for Western European and Other States.**

S Mahendra Dev Appointed as Chairman of PM's Economic Advisory Council



- Former Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research Vice Chancellor **S Mahendra Dev** has taken charge as the new **Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)**.
- Prior to this position, he was Chairman of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices**, Ministry of Agriculture from 2008 to 2010.
- The eminent economist replaced Niti Aayog vice chairman **Suman Bery**, who was holding the additional charge of EAC-PM.
- The EAC-PM had been without a full-time chairman since last November, following the death of its first chairman, **Bibek Debroy**.

India-England Test Series Renamed Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy



- The India-England Test series has been renamed the **Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy**.
- This new trophy replaces the previous **Pataudi Trophy and the Anthony de Mello Trophy**, which were awarded in England and India respectively.
- The change honors both James Anderson and Sachin Tendulkar, recognizing their significant contributions to cricket.
- The Pataudi legacy will continue to be recognized through the newly introduced Pataudi Medal, awarded to the winning captain.
- This announcement by the ECB and BCCI pays tribute to two legends.

Amit Shah Launches Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag to Promote Indian Languages in Governance



- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, launched **Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag** (Indian Languages Section) in New Delhi.
- This initiative is aimed at reducing the dominance of foreign languages, especially English, in India's administrative functioning and promoting the use of mother tongues in decision-making and official communication.
- The Union Budget 2024-25 allocated ₹56 crore for the development of this platform.
- Support Agency: **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**
- Aligned With: **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**

800-Year-Old Pandya Era Shiva Temple Unearthed in Tamil Nadu



- An 800-year-old **Shiva temple** from the later Pandya period (1216–1345) has been discovered in **Tamil Nadu**
- Although only the stone base remains, the site is of major historical interest due to Tamil inscriptions dating back to **1217-1218 CE** that reveal the temple's name—**Thenna-van-isvaram**—and its financially independent status.
- Thennavan is a title used by the Pandyas, showing the temple had royal support.
- Ruler: **Maravarman Sundara Pandya.**
- Their kingdom ended in the 14th century after the **Delhi Sultanate invasion**

Magnus Carlsen Clinches Norway Chess 2025



- Norwegian grandmaster and world number 1, **Magnus Carlsen**, has won his seventh Norway Chess tournament 2025 title in Stavanger.
- The five-time World Champion secured the win after a dramatic final round where American Grandmaster **Fabiano Caruana** defeated Indian chess star D. Gukesh to grab three points.
- In the Women's event, **Anna Muzychuk** from Ukraine won the title.
- China's **Lei Tingjie** came second, and India's **Koneru Humpy** finished third.

Muhammad Waseem and Chloe Tryon Named ICC Players of the Month for May 2025



- United Arab Emirates batter **Muhammad Waseem** and South Africa all-rounder **Chloe Tryon** have been named the ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month for May 2025.
- Waseem, secured the honor for a second time, having previously won in April 2024

India's Extreme Poverty Rate Falls to 5.3% in 2022-23: World Bank

Report



- India has made remarkable progress in reducing extreme poverty, with **269 million(26.9 Cr) people moving out** of it between 2011-12 and 2022-23.
- According to the latest World Bank data, extreme poverty rate dropped significantly from **27.1 percent** in 2011-12 to just **5.3 percent** in 2022-23.
- In 2011-12, around **344.47 million people** in India were living in extreme poverty.
- By 2022-23, that number fell sharply to **75.24 million**.
- Much of this progress came from states like **Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh**, which together accounted for 65 percent of India's extreme poor in 2011-12.
- These states contributed to two-thirds of the total poverty reduction over the past decade.

- Using the earlier **2.15 Dollars per-day poverty line**, based on 2017 prices, the poverty rate in India fell from 16.2 percent in 2011 to just 2.3 percent in 2022.
- This translates to a drop in the number of people living in extreme poverty from **205.93 million to 33.66 million**.
- The World Bank defines extreme poverty as living on less than **3.00 US Dollars per day**, adjusted to 2021 prices.
- The decline in poverty has been widespread across both **rural and urban areas**.
 - **Rural poverty** decreased from 18.4 percent to **2.8 percent**, while **urban poverty** fell from 10.7 percent to just **1.1 percent** over the 11-year period.
- India has also seen strong improvement in reducing **multidimensional poverty**, which includes factors such as health, education, and standard of living.
 - The Multidimensional Poverty Index dropped from 53.8 percent in 2005-06 to 16.4 percent in 2019-21, and further down to **15.5 percent in 2022-23**.

Tamil Nadu Declares Dhanushkodi as Greater Flamingo Sanctuary



- On World Environment Day (June 5, 2025), the Tamil Nadu government officially declared a **Greater Flamingo Sanctuary at Dhanushkodi** in Ramanathapuram district.
- The sanctuary lies within the ecologically rich **Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve**, offering crucial protection to thousands of migratory wetland birds along the Central Asian Flyway.
- Inaugurated by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin
- Protect and conserve migratory wetland birds, especially **Greater Flamingos**.

IAF Officer Manisha Padhi Becomes India's First Female ADC to a Governor



- Squadron Leader **Manisha Padhi**, a 2015 batch Indian Air Force (IAF) officer made history by becoming the **first female to be appointed as the Aide-De-Camp (ADC) to the Governor** of Mizoram, Hari Babu Kambhampati
- The title '**Aide-de-Camp**' refers to an officer in the armed forces who assists a higher-ranking officer.
- In India, the Aide-de-Camp is an honorary designation, and those serving or retired from this role use the post-nominal letters ADC
- The President has **5 ADCs** (3 Army, 1 Navy, 1 Air Force, +1 honorary from Territorial Army).

Sat Pal Bhanoo Appointed Interim CEO & MD of LIC



- The Government of India has appointed **Sat Pal Bhanoo**, currently Managing Director at **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**, as the interim CEO and Managing Director of the corporation.
- This decision follows the completion of the tenure of **Siddhartha Mohanty**, who served as the previous CEO & MD.
- Bhanoo will assume this key leadership role for a period of three months beginning June 08, 2025, or until a permanent successor is appointed, whichever occurs earlier.
- Appointment made through a notification by the **Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance**.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

2025

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President Murmu promulgates Ladakh Official Languages Regulation

2025



- In a landmark move for the Union Territory of Ladakh, President Droupadi Murmu has promulgated three key regulations
 1. **The Ladakh Reservation (Amendment) Regulation, 2025**, ensuring 85% job reservation for local residents
 2. **The Ladakh Official Languages Regulation, 2025** recognizing five official languages including Bhoti and Purgi
 3. **Amendments to the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils Regulation**, providing for 33% reservation for women in the Leh and Kargil Hill Councils.
- These steps aim to empower local communities, preserve cultural heritage, and enhance gender representation

- President of India used powers under **Article 240** of the Constitution to promulgate three major regulations for Ladakh.
- The Ladakh Official Languages Regulation 2025 has extended to the entire Union Territory.
 - The **Ministry of Law and Justice** notified this regulation and recognised **English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhoti and Purgi** as official languages to be used for all or any of the official purposes of the Union Territory.
 - English language has been used as the official language for official purposes before the date of commencement of this Regulation.

T Rabi Sankar Joins 16th Finance Commission as Part-Time Member



- The President has appointed Shri **T. Rabi Sankar**, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as a part-time Member of the 16th Finance Commission
- He shall hold office from the date of assuming charge until the submission of the Commission's Report or 31st October, 2025, whichever is earlier.
- The appointment of Shri T. Rabi Sankar is consequent to the resignation of one of the full-time Members of the **Ajay Narayan Jha**, on personal grounds.
- 16th FC was constituted on 31st December, 2023, with **Dr. Arvind Panagariya**, former Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, as its chairman.
- It mandated to submit its recommendations by **31st October, 2025**, for the award period of five years commencing from **1st April, 2026**.

Sailesh C. Mehta Appointed as Chairman of Fertiliser Association of India



- **Sailesh C. Mehta**, the Managing Director of Deepak Fertilizers and Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd., has been appointed the new Chairman of the Fertiliser Association of India (FAI).
- Known for his focus on sustainable and efficient fertiliser practices
- Mehta succeeds N. Suresh Krishnan, the MD & CEO of Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.

Rohini Gram Panchayat Wins Gold in National e-Governance Awards

2025



- **Rohini Gram Panchayat** in Shirpur taluka, Dhule district, Maharashtra, has won the Gold Award in the National e-Governance Awards 2025.
- A **100% tribal village**, Rohini has emerged as a national model for technology-driven rural governance.
- The Gram Panchayat was selected from over 1.45 lakh entries across India in the Grassroots Level Initiatives category and will receive the award at the **28th National e-Governance Conference in Visakhapatnam**
- The award is presented by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** and the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**.

- The National e-Governance Awards are presented annually to recognize best practices in e-governance initiatives across the country.
- The Gold Award includes a trophy, certificate, and a cash prize of ₹10 lakh.
- Including Gold awards, four Gram Panchayats have emerged as winners from over 1.45 lakh entries received from 26 States and Union Territories under the newly introduced award category.
 - Silver: **West Majlishpur Gram Panchayat, Tripura**
 - Jury Awards: **Palsana (Gujarat) & Suakati (Odisha)**
 - Jury Award: **Suakati Gram Panchayat, Kendujhar District, Odisha**

Indian Army Participates in Exercise Khaan Quest 2025 in Mongolia



- A 40-member team from the **Indian Army** has reached Mongolia's capital, **Ulaanbaatar**, ahead of the multinational peacekeeping **Exercise Khaan Quest 2025**
- Comprises 40 personnel, mainly from the **Kumaon Regiment**.
- Initiated in **2003** as a bilateral exercise between the **USA and Mongolia**, became a multinational peacekeeping exercise from **2006 onwards**.
- The 2025 edition is the 22nd iteration.
- The previous edition was held in Mongolia from **July 27 to August 9, 2024**

Indian Navy rescues 18 crew after fire on Singaporean Ship MV Wan Hai

503



- Indian Navy, in a closely coordinated Search And Rescue operation with the **Coast Guard**, has safely rescued 18 out of 22 crew members of the **MV Wan Hai 503**.
- The MV had reported an internal container explosion and a resultant major fire onboard.
- The vessel is registered under the **Singapore flag** and was en route from **Colombo to Mumbai** when the fire broke out.
- The ship also contains approximately 2,000 tonnes of fuel oil and 240 tonnes of diesel, increasing the risk of explosion and oil spill.

India's First Underwater Museum to Be Built Around INS Guldar in Maharashtra



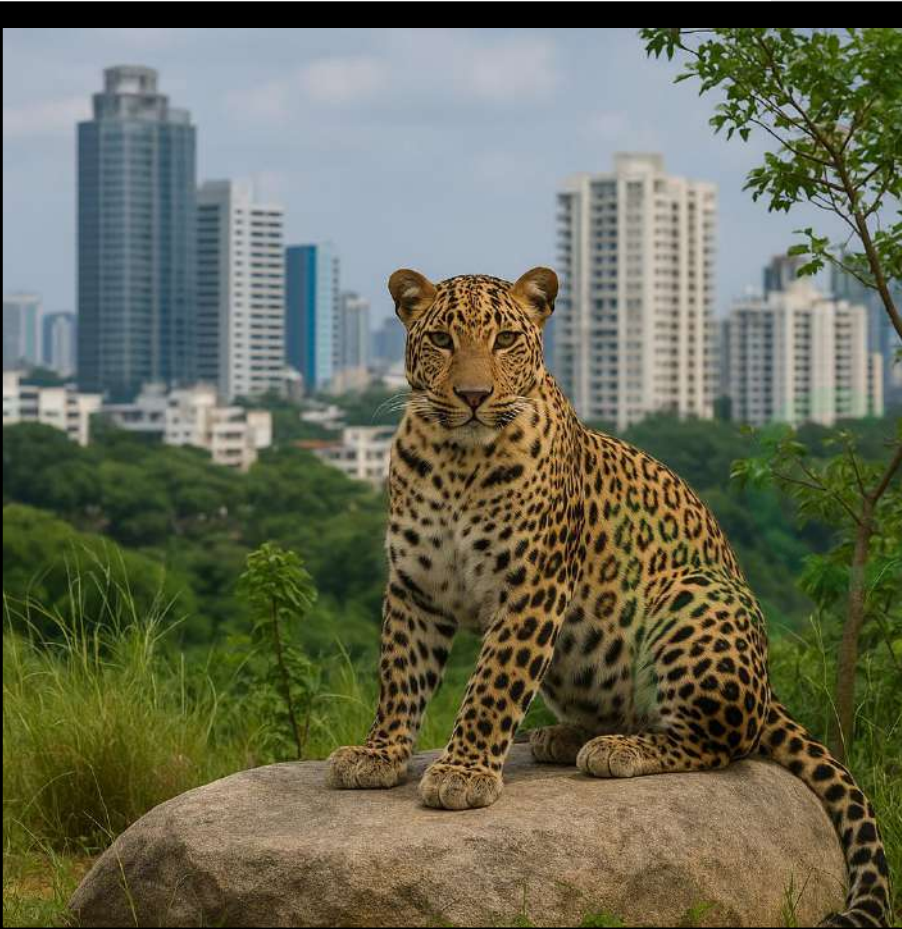
- India's first underwater museum and artificial coral reef will be developed around the decommissioned warship **INS Guldar** near Nivati Rocks at Vengurla in Sindhudurg district of **Maharashtra**.
- The ship, weighing 1,120 tons, was decommissioned in **January 2024**.
- It has been officially handed over by the central government to the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation for conversion into a submerged museum
- The initiative, supported by the central government, aims to boost marine conservation and tourism, offering scuba diving and future submarine tours.
- The Union Tourism Ministry has approved **46.91 crore rupees** for the project.

Katrina Kaif Appointed Global Tourism Ambassador for the Maldives



- **Katrina Kaif** has been named as the global brand ambassador for Maldives tourism
- Describing her as a “globally recognised icon, a distinguished performer, and an award-winning entrepreneur,”
- Maldives' decision to make Katrina Kaif its global brand ambassador for tourism comes just a month ahead of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the nation**, signalling a thaw in relations between the two countries after a period of diplomatic tension earlier last year.

Bengaluru Becomes India's 'Leopard Capital', Surpassing Mumbai



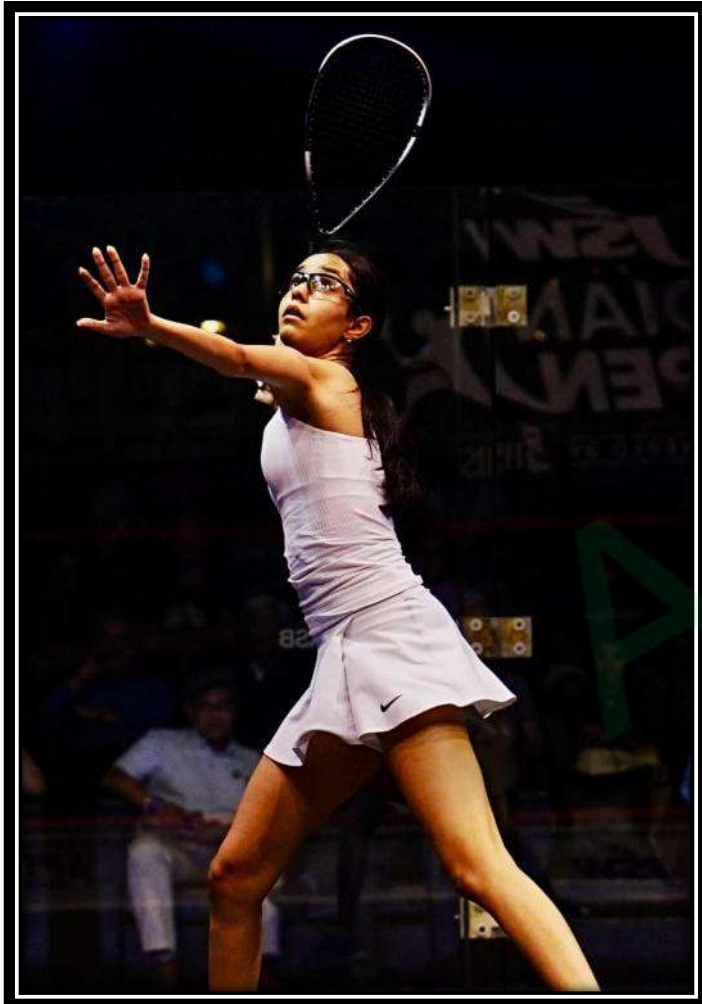
- **Bengaluru** declared '**Leopard Capital**' of India, surpassing Mumbai in wild leopard numbers.
- A year-long camera trap survey by **Holématti Nature Foundation**, led by Dr. Sanjay Gubbi, also recorded 34 mammal species, many listed as Endangered or Schedule I under Indian law
- Estimated Leopards: 80-85 leopards in Bengaluru's fringes; 54 in **Bannerghatta National Park (BNP)**.

BWF Indonesia Open 2025: An Se-young makes history as Anders Antonsen takes men's title



- The **2025 Indonesia Open**, one of badminton's most prestigious Super 1000 tournaments, concluded **on June 8 in Jakarta**
- At the 2025 Indonesia Open, **Anders Antonsen** and **An Se-young** secured the **men's** and **women's singles** titles, respectively.
- **Antonsen**, from **Denmark**, defeated **Chou Tien-chen** in the men's final
- **An**, from **South Korea**, defended her title against **Wang Zhiyi** in a thrilling women's final.
- This marked Antonsen's first Indonesia Open title and An's second

PSA Awards 2024-25: Indian squash star Anahat Singh bags two Player of the Season honours



- **Anahat Singh**, India's No. 1 women's squash player, bagged twin honours at the PSA Awards 2024-25, winning the **Women's Challenger Player of the Season** and sharing the **Women's Young Player of the Season** title with **Amina Orfi** of Egypt.
- The Delhi-based squash player won **two bronze medals at the Asian Games 2023** - in the women's team and the mixed doubles events - in Hangzhou.
- She also held the record of being the **youngest Indian to become an Asian Games medallist** (15 years, six months and 16 days) for a few days before **Sanjana Bathula** surpassed it.

Carlos Alcaraz retains French Open title; beats Jannik



- The 2025 French Open Men's Singles final held on 8 June 2025
- **Carlos Alcaraz** triumphed over **Italy's Jannik Sinner** in the longest-ever French Open final, lasting five hours and 29 minutes
- It was the first time in French Open history that a match **tiebreaker decided a singles final.**
- This victory marks Alcaraz's second consecutive French Open title and his **fifth Grand Slam win overall**
- He won the French Open in 2024 and the Wimbledon 2023, 2024 and US Open 2022
- Women's Singles: **Coco Gauff (USA)**
- Runners-Up: **Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)**

Portugal wins the UEFA Nations League 2025



- **Portugal** secured their second UEFA Nations League title after defeating Spain in a penalty shootout.
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** scored a crucial equaliser in the second half, marking another milestone in his storied international career.
- Portugal became First team to **win two Nations League titles** (2019, 2025).
- Portugal's second Nations League title, making them the first team to win the tournament twice since its inception in **2018**.
- Previous Winners: **2019 – Portugal, 2021 – France, 2023 – Spain**

PM Modi's Visit to Cyprus



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has arrived in Cyprus on the first leg of his **three-nation tour**.
- He was received by Cyprus President **Nikos Christodoulidis**.
- PM Modi's visit was the first by an Indian Prime Minister to Cyprus in over two decades
- Cyprus President awarded PM Modi the “**Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III**”, the country's highest civilian honour

PM Modi Conferred with Cyprus' Highest Civilian Honour — Order of Makarios III



- On the second day of his historic visit to **Cyprus**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a ceremonial welcome at the Presidential Palace in Nicosia.
- He held a one-on-one meeting with President **Nikos Christodoulides**, during which the President conferred upon him the **Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III** – the highest civilian honour of the Republic of Cyprus.
- The recognition added to the growing list of international accolades received by the Prime Minister
- The honour marks a significant moment in Prime Minister Modi's historic visit to Cyprus, **the first by an Indian Prime Minister in over two decades.**

World Blood Donor Day 2025



- Every year on **June 14**, countries around the globe observe World Blood Donor Day to recognise and appreciate the life-saving contributions of voluntary blood donors.
- This day also aims to raise awareness about the constant need for safe blood and blood products.
- Date marks the birthday of **Karl Landsteiner**, who discovered the ABO blood group system (born June 14, 1868).
- The 2025 theme, “***Give Blood, Give Hope***”
- First observed in **2004**, launched by **World Health Organization (WHO)**
- **National Blood Donor Day** is celebrated on **October 1st** in India.

South Africa Clinches Maiden ICC World Test Championship 2025 Title at Lord's



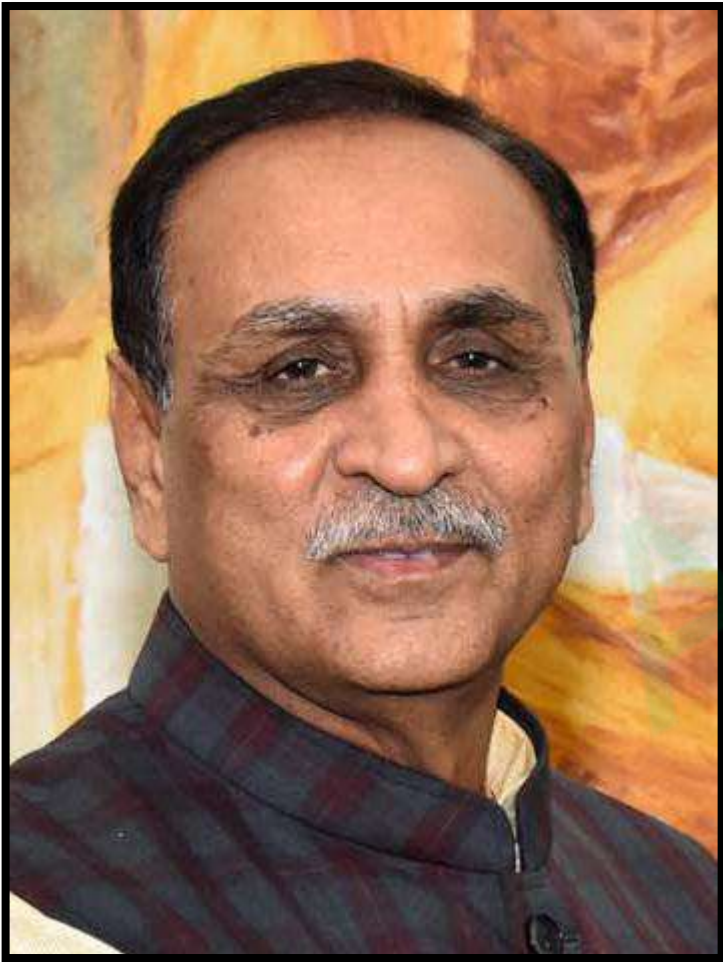
- The 2025 ICC World Test Championship final was a Test cricket match played at **Lord's, London** from **11 to 14 June** to determine the winner of the 2023–2025 ICC World Test Championship.
- It was played between **Australia and South Africa**.
- **South Africa won the match** by 5 wickets to win the third edition of the ICC World Test Championship.
- This marked **South Africa's maiden win of the Championship**.
- Player of the match: **Aiden Markram (SA)**
- This was also South Africa's **first ICC title since 1998**

Kashmiri Music Legend Ustad Ghulam Nabi Shah, 'Hamle Bulbul', Passes Away



- **Ustad Ghulam Nabi Shah**, fondly remembered as *Hamle Bulbul*, passed away on June 11, 2025
- Hailed from **Dangiwacha Rafiabab, Baramulla district** of Jammu and Kashmir.
- He was instrumental in promoting and preserving Kashmiri folk music, both at national and international levels.
- Honored with the **Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah Award (2011)** for contributions to Kashmiri Lok Sangeet.

Former Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani Dies in Air India Flight Crash



- DNA testing has confirmed the death of former Gujarat chief minister **Vijay Rupani** in the June 12 Air India Flight AI171 crash in Ahmedabad
- Vijay Rupani served as the **chief minister of Gujarat from 2016 to 2021 for two consecutive terms.**
- He was a representative in the Gujarat Legislative Assembly for the **Rajkot West constituency** from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- The **Boeing 787 Dreamliner**, carrying 242 passengers and crew from Ahmedabad to London, crashed into a medical college hostel in Meghaninagar on June 12, moments after takeoff.
- The disaster claimed 241 lives, with Vishwash Kumar Ramesh, as the sole survivor with minor injuries.

Wimbledon 2025 Sets New Prize Money Record at \$73 Million



- The All England Club has announced a record prize fund of **£53.5 million (approx. \$73 million)**.
- Each men's and women's singles champion will take home £3 million (\$4 million).
- The announcement on June 12, 2025, revealed a **7% increase** in Wimbledon's total prize money compared to 2024, with significant boosts across all competition levels, including early rounds.
- Wimbledon 2025 will also mark the first edition **without human line judges, shifting to fully electronic line-calling.**

India–US Air Force Special Forces Conclude First Joint Exercise ‘Tiger Claw’



- The Indian Air Force and US Air Force conducted their first-ever joint special operations exercise, "**Tiger Claw**", from May 26 to June 10, 2025, marking a new phase in bilateral military cooperation.
- "**Tiger Claw**" between the Garud Special Forces of the Indian Air Force and the United States Air Force (USAF) Special Force
- First instance of exclusive air force special forces collaboration between India and the US.

Operation Rising Lion: Israel Targets Iranian Nuclear Sites in Escalated Strikes



- **Operation Rising Lion** is the codename for Israel's largest and most ambitious military strike against Iran since the 1980-89 Iran-Iraq War
- Launched in the early hours of June 13, 2025, the operation targeted infrastructure within Iran, primarily focusing on nuclear facilities, missile production sites, and senior military leadership.
- Iran's primary uranium enrichment centre, referred to as the "**beating heart**" of its nuclear programme, Severely damaged in Israel's strike, including major surface infrastructure.

India Slips to 131st in WEF Gender Gap Index 2025

- The **19th** edition of the **Global Gender Gap Report** was released on June 12, 2025 by the WEF.
- India dropped two spots to **131st out of 148 nations**, slipping two positions from its previous rank.
- India's overall ranking was **135 in 2022**, It improved to 127 in 2023, before falling again to 129 last year and 131 this year
- **Iceland** continues to top the index for the 16th year running, followed by **Finland, Norway, the United Kingdom and New Zealand**.
- Among South Asian countries, **Bangladesh** emerged as the best performer, jumping 75 ranks to reach the 24th position globally.



Chennai to Host Inaugural Hockey India Masters Cup from June 18



- The Hockey India Masters Cup for men and women kicks off in **Chennai.**
- Organized by the Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu (HUTN)
- This 10-day tournament, hosted by the Tamil Nadu Hockey Unit, features men in the **40 age group** and **women over 35.**
- This is the **first edition of the tournament**, providing a special platform for veteran hockey players in India.
- Venue: **Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium, Chennai**

India Reappoints Ambassador to North Korea After Four Years



- India has named **Alia-wati Long-kumer**, a 2008-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, as its new ambassador to North Korea
- India now restoring high-level diplomatic representation in Pyongyang after a four-year gap.
- India reopened its embassy in **Pyongyang** in December 2024, after closing it in July 2021 due to COVID-19.
- **Atul Malhari Gotsurve** was the last ambassador before the 2021 closure.

India Launches Largest-Ever Tribal Empowerment Campaign

- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has launched the **Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan (DAJA)**, the largest-ever tribal empowerment campaign, reaching over 1 lakh tribal villages across 31 States/UTs
- **November 15th** was designated as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas in 2021 to honor tribal freedom fighter **Birsa Munda** and commemorate his 150th birth anniversary.
- The initiative aims to saturate government benefits across **549 tribal districts, 2,900+ blocks, and 207 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)**-dominated districts, covering nearly 1 lakh villages and habitations.
- Union Tribal Affairs Minister **Shri Jual Oram** described it as a major milestone in realizing the vision of **Antyodaya and Viksit Bharat**.



2025 FIFA Club World Cup



- The **2025 FIFA Club World Cup** was the 21st edition and the first of the expanded FIFA Club World Cup, an international club soccer competition organised by **FIFA**.
- The tournament was held in the **United States** from June 14 to July 13, 2025, and featured 32 teams.
- The expanded format included the continental champions from the past four years as well as additional qualified teams.
- **Chelsea** became the world champions for the second time after defeating Paris Saint-Germain 3–0 in the final.

**ALWAYS
STAY
POSITIVE**

CURRENT AFFAIRS

2025

EDUCATION REDEFINED

JUNE 7

Green Fertiliser Breakthrough Wins \$2M Food Planet Prize 2025



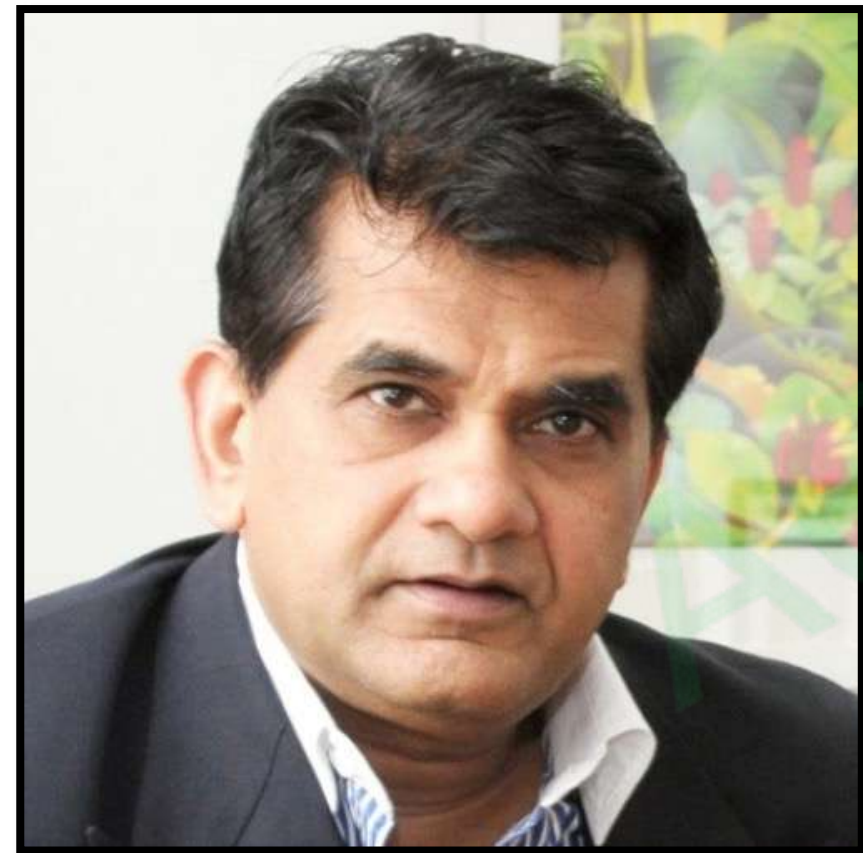
- **NitroCapt**, a Swedish startup, won the \$2M Food Planet Prize 2025 award on for its **green fertiliser breakthrough**.
- A game-changing **green fertiliser** developed by Sweden's NitroCapt has claimed the 2025 Food Planet Prize, the **world's largest environmental accolade**.
- Using **plasma and green energy** to extract nitrogen from the air, this breakthrough eliminates fossil fuel dependence in fertiliser production.
- Nitrogen fertilisers are responsible for **2.7% of global CO₂ emissions**

Lt Commander Yashasvi Solankee Becomes First Woman ADC to President of India



- Lieutenant Commander **Yashasvi Solankee**, became the first woman officer to be appointed as an Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the President of India.
- The President usually has **five ADCs** — three from the Indian Army, and one each from the Indian Navy and Indian Air Force. Until now, no woman officer had ever served in this prestigious role.
- Solankee, from **Bharuch in Gujarat**, was selected in April 2025 and completed a month-long orientation.
- The ADC manages presidential schedules, attends all ceremonies, and serves as a 24/7 liaison with government and military.

Amitabh Kant Steps Down as G20 Sherpa After 45 Years of Public Service



- **Amitabh Kant** announced his decision to step down as the G20 Sherpa.
- His resignation comes after 45 years of government service in various roles, including **G20 Sherpa, CEO of NITI Aayog, and Secretary of the Department for Industrial Policy and Promotion**, among others.
- He served as India's **G20 Sherpa** to Prime Minister Narendra Modi from 8 July 2022 till 16 June 2025
- Kant was CEO of NITI Aayog from **2016 to 2022**
- Japan's The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star (2023)

- As the Secretary of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Kant drove initiatives such as "**Make in India**," "**Start Up India**," and "**Ease of Doing Business**"
- Kant is the author of books
 - ***Branding India-An Incredible Story***
 - ***Incredible India 2.0***
 - ***Made in India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise***
 - ***The Elephant Moves: India's New Place in the World*** co-authored with Amit Kapoor.
 - ***"How India scaled Mt G20: The Inside Story of The G20"***

ACADEMIS
EDUCATION REDEFINED

Blaise Metreweli Becomes MI6's First Female Chief



- United Kingdom Prime Minister **Keir Starmer** has appointed **Blaise Metreweli** as the chief of the country's Secret Intelligence Service, commonly known as **MI6**.
- The appointment means **MI6 will be led by a woman for the first time** in the foreign intelligence service's 116-year history.
- She will become the 18th chief of the organisation and take over from Sir **Richard Moore** later this year.

UN Declares 2026 as International Year of the Woman Farmer



- United Nations General Assembly has declared **2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer** to acknowledge and amplify the crucial role played by women in global agriculture.
- The initiative seeks to promote **gender-equitable agricultural policies** and empower women in the sector.
- Women contribute to **nearly 50% of the global food supply**.
- It holds particular significance for countries like **India, where ~80% of economically active women work in agriculture** but own just 8.3% of farmland.

- Government Interventions for women farmers
 - **Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana**
 - Aims to Skill-building and access to resources for women farmers.
 - **Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation**
 - Provides 50–80% subsidies on machinery.
 - **National Food Security Mission (NFSM)**
 - 30% of funds earmarked for women in certain States/UTs.

Bihar Pioneers India's First Mobile-Based e-Voting System



- Bihar became the first Indian state to pilot mobile phone-based e-voting in municipal elections using the **E-SECBHR app**
- “e-Voting SECBHR” developed by the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**
- The initiative aimed to improve voting access for senior citizens, pregnant women, and persons with disabilities.
- To ensure security and transparency, the system used **blockchain technology, facial recognition, biometric scanning, voter ID verification, and limited 2 voters per mobile number.**

Renowned ISRO Scientist and Tamil Author Nellai Su. Muthu Passes

Away at 74



- Nellai Su. Muthu, a former ISRO scientist, acclaimed Tamil author, and recipient of numerous literary accolades, passed away in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- Served as a senior scientist at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- Worked alongside Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, contributing to India's space missions.
- He won several awards from the Tamil development department of Tamil Nadu for his works *Vinveli 2057*, *Arivutom vingana vilaiyattu*, *Einsteinum andaveliyum* and *Ariviyal varalaru*

Armand Duplantis Sets 12th World Record with 6.28m Vault



- Swedish pole vault sensation **Armand "Mondo" Duplantis** once again made history by setting a new world record of **6.28 meters** in the **men's pole vault**.
- This remarkable achievement occurred at the **Diamond League event in Stockholm**, marking his **12th career world record** and the first time he has broken the record on home soil in Sweden.
- Duplantis cleared an astounding **6.28 meters** (20 feet, 7 inches), surpassing his previous record of 6.27 meters set in February 2025.
- Two-time Olympic champion and serial world record breaker.

India's Unemployment Rises to 5.6% in May 2025 Amid Post-Harvest

Slowdown



- India experienced a notable increase in its unemployment rate in May 2025, rising to **5.6%** due to a seasonal decline in agricultural employment following the harvest season.
- India's unemployment rate increased to 5.6% in May 2025, up from 5.1% in April, primarily due to a sharp decline in agricultural jobs following the harvest season, according to data released by the **Ministry of Statistics**.
- **Female Unemployment Rate:** Increased to **5.8%** (compared to 5.6% for males).
- **Youth (15–29 years) Unemployment**
 - **Urban:** Rose to **17.9%** (from 17.2%).
 - **Rural:** Rose to **13.7%** (from 12.3%).

INS Arnala, India's first indigenous anti-submarine shallow water craft, commissioned into Navy



- **INS Arnala**, the first of the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, was commissioned into the Eastern Naval Command of the Indian Navy on 18 Jun 2025 in the presence of **General Anil Chauhan**, the Chief of Defence Staff, at Naval Dockyard, **Visakhapatnam**.
- Built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata**, and delivered on 8 May at **L&T Shipyard in Kattupalli** under a public-private partnership
- INS Arnala is the **first in a series of eight ASW-SWCs** being developed to strengthen India's coastal defence, according to a previous statement from the Ministry of Defence.

India-France Joint Exercise 'Shakti 2025' Begins in France



- The Indian Army participated in 8th edition of the biennial **India-French** Joint Military **Exercise SHAKTI**.
- The conducted at Camp Larzac, France from **18th June 2025 to 1st July 2025**.
- The Indian contingent comprising of 90 personnel is being represented primarily by a **Battalion of the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles** besides personnel from other arms and services.
- The French contingent comprising of 90 personnel will be represented by personnel from the **13th Foreign Legion Half- Brigade (13th DBLE)**.

IndiGo Ranked Among World's Best Low-Cost Airlines in Skytrax 2025

Awards



- **IndiGo Airlines** has been ranked third among the world's top low-cost carriers in the 2025 Skytrax World Airline Awards.
- India's budget carrier IndiGo secured **3rd place in the World's Best Low-Cost Airlines 2025 list**
- Established in **1999**, the Skytrax World Airline Awards are widely regarded as the "**Oscars of the aviation industry.**"
- The 2025 edition witnessed votes from 22.3 million global passengers, covering over 325 airlines worldwide.
- **AirAsia (Malaysia)** – Rank 1

India Hosts First Assembly of the International Big Cat Alliance in New Delhi



- The first-ever Assembly of the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** was held in **New Delhi**.
- A global alliance initiated by India in **March 2024**.
- Formed under the aegis of the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**.
- Comprises **95 countries** that are natural habitats (range countries) for the seven big cat species.
- Chaired by Union Minister **Bhupender Yadav**, who was unanimously elected President of IBCA.
- **S.P. Yadav** was elected as the Director General.

Bonn Climate Change Conference 2025



- The **Bonn Climate Change Conference 2025** began on June 16 in Germany with over 5,000 delegates participating to review climate agreements and set the technical agenda for 30th Conference of the Parties in **Belem, Brazil..**
- The Bonn Climate Change Conference is an annual mid-year conference under the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** focusing on scientific, technical, and implementation aspects of climate negotiations.
- First held in **1995**, after the signing of the UNFCCC (1992).
- Hosted in **Bonn, Germany**, home to the UNFCCC headquarters.

Axiom Mission 4



- **Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4)** is a private spaceflight organized by Axiom Space.
- It aims to transport a crew to the International Space Station (ISS) for a **14-day mission**.
- This will be Axiom Space's **4th mission to the ISS**, following their previous missions (Ax-1, Ax-2, and Ax-3).
- The mission is a collaborative effort resulting from an agreement between **ISRO and NASA**.
- It provides ISRO with an early opportunity to test experiments in space, originally planned for **Gaganyaan**.

- Launch Pad: **LC-39A, Kennedy Space Center, Florida**
- Spacecraft: Crew Dragon **Grace**
- Rocket: **Falcon 9** Block 5 B1094-2
- Launch On: **June 25, 2025.**
- The crew includes members from the **USA, India, Poland, and Hungary.**
- Crew (4 total):
 - **Peggy Whitson (USA)**
 - **Shubhanshu Shukla (India)**
 - **Sławosz Uznański-Wiśniewski (Poland)**
 - Mission Specialist: **Tibor Kapu (Hungary)**
- **Shubhanshu Shukla** will be India's second national astronaut to go to space since 1984.
 - **Rakesh Sharma** was the last Indian to go to space when he travelled to space in 1984 onboard the erstwhile Soviet Union's Soyuz spacecraft.

ICC Unveils Schedule for Women's ODI World Cup 2025 in India & Sri Lanka

Lanka



- The ICC Women's ODI Cricket World Cup 2025 will begin on September 30 with co-hosts **India and Sri Lanka** facing off in the opening match of the tournament at **M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru**.
- Defending champions **Australia**
- The final will be played on **2nd November**.
- The eight-team tournament features India, **Australia, England, South Africa, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan**.
 - This will be the last time that the tournament will have eight teams
- India hosting fourth tournament after the **1978, 1997, and 2013 editions**, and Sri Lanka, their first tournament.

UN General Assembly declares Dec 4 as international day against unilateral coercive measures



- The UN General Assembly has adopted a resolution declaring **December 4** every year as the **International Day Against Unilateral Coercive Measures**.
- Unilateral coercive measures (UCMs) are economic or political actions taken by one state to pressure another into changing its policies.
- The resolution aims to raise global awareness of the harmful impact of these measures
- The resolution passed with 116 votes in favour, 51 against, and 6 abstentions.
- The first International Day against Unilateral Coercive Measures will be observed in **2025**.

FM Sitharaman Lays Foundation for Mini Planetarium and Astro Globe at Hanle Dark Sky Reserve



- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman laid the foundation stone for a **Mini Planetarium and Astro Globe** at the **Hanle Dark Sky Reserve** During her visit to **Ladakh**
- Sanctioned under the **Special Development Package (SDP)** at a cost of **₹276.65 lakh**, the initiative aims to promote scientific learning, astro-tourism, and local employment, while enhancing India's stature in public astronomy outreach.

QS World Rankings 2026

- The rise has been swift and steady From just 11 ranked institutions in 2015, India has recorded a remarkable five-fold increase over the decade.
- This makes India the fastest-rising G20 nation in the rankings.
- India has **54 universities** in the QS World University Rankings 2026, making it the **fourth most represented country**.
- Only the **United States (192)**, the United Kingdom (90), and Mainland China (72) have more universities ranked than India.
- **IIT Delhi** leads the Indian contingent
 - It is ranked 123rd globally, rising from 150th in 2025.
- The **QS World University Rankings** are among the most trusted and wide-reaching assessments of higher education worldwide.

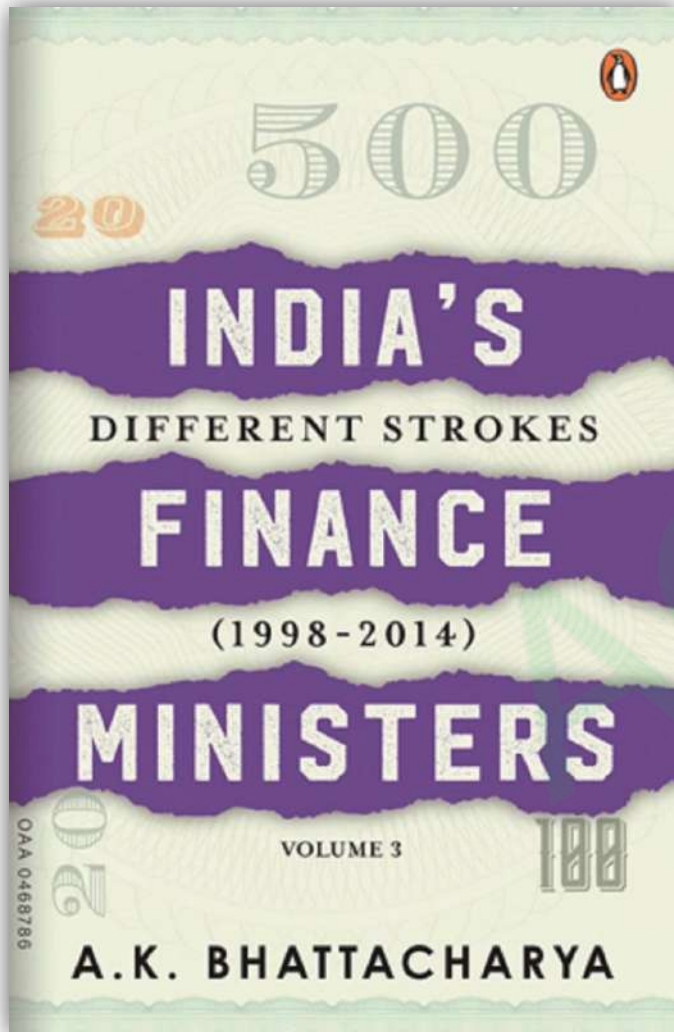


India Ranks 71st in WEF Energy Transition Index 2025



- Despite notable progress in energy efficiency and clean energy investment, India has slipped to **71st position** in the **World Economic Forum's (WEF) Energy Transition Index 2025** (63rd in 2024)
- Falling eight places from last year.
- The index, which ranks 118 countries based on their performance across energy security, sustainability, and equity
- **Sweden, Finland, and Denmark** at the top.
- **Congo** Ranked last

A.K. Bhattacharya's New Book Traces India's Economy Since 1998



- Renowned journalist and author **A.K. Bhattacharya** has recently released the third installment of his influential book series on India's Finance Ministers.
- Titled "**India's Finance Ministers III: Different Strokes (1998–2014)**", the new volume offers a comprehensive look into India's economic governance during a critical period of post-reform momentum.
- The book spans a pivotal period in India's economic trajectory, covering the tenures of **Yashwant Sinha, Jaswant Singh, Pranab Mukherjee, and P. Chidambaram**, capturing both the achievements and challenges of a country transforming after the 1991 reforms.

Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025



- The Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi in its meeting held under the Chairmanship of its President **Sri Madhav Kaushik** has approved the Sahitya Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025.
- The Sahitya Akademi (India's National Academy of Letters) announced the **Yuva Puraskar for 23** writers and **Bal Sahitya Puraskar for 24** authors across 24 Indian languages for 2025.
- The Award in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper plaque and an award money of **Rs.50,000/-** will be presented to the awardees at a special function

Language	Title and Genre	Author
Assamese	Mainaahantar Padya (Poetry)	Surendra Mohan Das
Bengali	Ekhono Gaye Kanta Daye (Stories)	Tridib Kumar Chattopadhyay
Bodo	Khanthi Bwswn Arw Akhu Danai (Stories)	Binay Kumar Brahma
Dogri	Nanhi Tor (Poetry)	P.L.Parihar “Shauq”
English	Dakshin South Indian Myths and Fables Retold (Stories)	Nitin Kushalappa MP
Gujarati	Tinchak (Poetry)	Kirtida Brahmabhatt
Hindi	Ek Batey Bara (Short Stories)	Sushil Shukla

Kannada	Notebook (Short Stories)	K. Shivalingappa Handihal
Kashmiri	Shure Te Tchure Gyush (Short Stories)	Izhar Mubashir
Konkani	Belabaicho Shankar Aani Haer Kanyo (Stories)	Nayana Adarkar
Maithili	Chukka (Short Stories)	Munni Kamat
Malayalam	Penguinukalude Vankarayil (Novel)	Sreejith Moothedath
Manipuri	Angangshinggee Shannabungsida (Play)	Shanto M.
Marathi	Aabhalmaya (Poetry)	Suresh Sawant
Nepali	Shanti Van (Novel)	Sangmu Lepcha

Odia	Kete Phula Phutichi (Poetry)	Rajakishore Parhi
Punjabi	Jadoo Patta (Novel)	Pali Khadim (Amrit Pal Singh)
Rajasthani	Pankheruvan Ni Pira (Drama)	Bhogilal Patidar
Sanskrit	Balvisvam (Poetry)	Preeti Pujara
Santali	Sona Miru-ag Sandesh (Poetry)	Haralal Murmu
Sindhi	Asmani Pari (Poetry)	Heena Agnani 'Heer'
Tamil	Ottrai Siragu Oviya (Novel)	Vishnupuram Sarvanan
Telugu	Kaburla Devatha (Story)	Gangiseti Sivakumar
Urdu	Qaumi	Ghazanfar Iqbal

Ram Bahadur Rai Presented Padma Bhushan by Ministry of Home

Affairs:



- On June 18, 2025, eminent journalist and cultural intellectual **Shri Ram Bahadur Rai** was formally presented the Padma Bhushan, by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Category- **Literature & Education**
- The special presentation took place at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) office in Delhi, as Shri Rai was unable to attend the main ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- **Padma Shri in 2015**
- **Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Samman in 2013**

Calcutta High Court Orders Resumption of MGNREGA in West Bengal from August 1



- The **Calcutta High Court** ordered the Centre to resume the implementation of the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** scheme in West Bengal from August 1, 2025, after nearly three years of suspension.
- Centre stopped payment of wages citing corruption under **Section 27 of MGNREGA in 2021**
- The court acknowledged that the Centre had identified certain irregularities in the disbursement of wages under MGNREGA in the state.
- It noted that action had already been taken, recoveries made, and the funds secured in the state nodal agency's bank account.

Anantha Chandrakasan, First Indian-Born Provost Of MIT



- **Prof Anantha Chandrakasan** has been named **Massachusetts Institute of Technology's** new provost, the **first Indian-American to serve in this leadership role.**
- The MIT provost is the institute's chief academic and budget officer, with a wide-ranging portfolio that encompasses everything related to faculty, oversight of the educational enterprise and prime responsibility for MIT's strategic planning.
- Chandrakasan will take charge on July 1, 2025, succeeding **Cynthia Barnhart**

Operation Sindhu: India Evacuates Nationals from Conflict-Hit Iran



- Amid rising tensions between Iran and Israel, the Government of India has launched '**Operation Sindhu**' to ensure the safe evacuation of Indian nationals stranded in the conflict-affected regions of Iran.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** has initiated coordinated efforts through Indian embassies in Tehran and Yerevan to transport evacuees to safer zones and back home.
- India has a longstanding tradition of evacuation operations, including
 - **Operation Ganga (Ukraine), Operation Kaveri (Sudan), and Vande Bharat (COVID-19 pandemic).**

**ALWAYS
STAY
POSITIVE**